

Frontispiece



James Wyat Aetat 40.

THE L I F E

AND SURPRIZING A D V E N T U R E S

O F

JAMES WYATT.

CONTAINING,

I. His entering himself
Trumpeter on board
the *Revenge* Privateer,
Capt. *James Wimble*, May 29,
1741.

II. An Account of their
Cruise; and of his
being taken Prisoner
by the *Spaniards*;
with his wonderful
Deliverance from
Death.

III. The Manner of his
escaping from the
Spaniards, with Capt.
Robert Winter, and
five others.

IV. How they were
drove by contrary
Winds on the Coast
of *Barbary*; where
they were taken Prisoners
by the *Moors*,

and the Hardships
they endur'd among
the Infidels. Also an
Account of the Religion
of the *Moors*; and of
Mahomet, the
Founder thereof.—

V. The Customs, Ceremonies,
Manners and Diversions
of the *Mahometans*: Together
with an Account of the
Curiosities in *Africa*; and
of the Trade between the
Europeans and *Africans*,
on the *Gold-Slave*; and
Ivory Coasts. With the
Manner of his Deliverance,
and his Arrival safe in
England after various
Vicissitudes of Fortune.

Written by H I M S E L F.

Adorn'd with COPPER PLATES.

The SIXTH EDITION.

L O N D O N :

Printed and sold by *H. Slater*, at the Circulating-
Library, *Clare-Court, Drury-Lane*; and at the
Printing-Office, in *Hind-Court*, opposite *Water-
Lane, Fleet-Street*. 1755

DECLASSIFIED

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various offices of the County of New York, for the year 1885:

LOWE'S



TO THE
READER.

Kind Reader,

I HAD never published the following Account of my Life, had it not been at the Desire of several of my particular Friends. As they had heard (a considerable Time after I enter'd Trumpeter on board the *Revenge* Privateer) that I was kill'd, with several others, by the *Spaniards*, in

attacking a Bark near the *Canary Islands*, my returning safe to *England* surpriz'd them very much, and made them curious to enquire into the Manner of my Deliverance.

I therefore being fatigu'd with continually relating the Account of our Cruize; our Engagements with the Enemy; my being made Prisoner, &c. resolv'd upon committing it to the Press, that every one might have an Opportunity of perusing it that was inclinable so to do.

Accordingly I communicated my Design to some Persons of good Sense and Learning, and ask'd their Opinion whether such a Thing would be acceptable to the Publick; and, upon their assuring me that they believ'd it would, I immediately set about it; and I hope it will give the Reader as much Satisfaction in reading it, as many of my Friends have receiv'd from a verbal Relation.

As I have hereafter given an Account of the *Revenge* Privateer's Cruize,

To the READER.

v

Cruise, I shall here speak a Word or two concerning the Officers. Captain *Wimble* (who was Commander of the Privateer) was exceeding kind to me; and behav'd, on all Occasions, with a great deal of Courage and Bravery. And all the other Officers behav'd in a Gentleman-like Manner, except one, viz. Mr. *James Parry*, whose ill Treatment I have mention'd at the Beginning of my Life, who nevertheless I freely forgave long before he was kill'd.

I have one Thing more to mention; and that is, To assure the Reader that I have inserted nothing in the Account of my Life, but what, to the best of my Knowledge, is true: And therefore, though you should hereafter meet with some Things which may seem strange and surprizing; nay, almost incredible, yet you may be assur'd they are true, and as such safely relate them to others. Indeed as to the Day of the Month on which they happen'd, I cannot say but I may be mistaken

mistaken as to a Day, or so, having
lost my Journal when I was Prisoner
among the *Moors*; yet, even in that,
I believe I have been pretty punc-
tual. So hoping plain Truth will
meet with a favourable Reception, I
bid you heartily farewell.

THE

THE
L I F E
AND SURPRIZING
ADVENTURES
O F
JAMES WYATT.

I Was born in the Parish of *Woodbury*, near the City of *Exeter*, in *Devonshire*, in the Year 1707. My Father was a Shoe-maker, but it was my Misfortune to lose both him and my Mother when I was very young. I had one Brother and two Sisters living when my Parents died. My Brother went into the King's Service, and my Sisters are now dead. I was the youngest of the four.

After the Death of my Parents, my eldest Sister took all the Care of me that lay in her Power. She sent me to School; and, when I
was

8 *The Life and Adventures of*

was big enough, got me Employment at a Farmer's, where I work'd till I was near Fourteen Years of Age; but, not liking that Business, she put me Apprentice to a Woolcomber and Dyer, at *Wentbury*, near *Plymouth*.

My Master was a very honest, good-natur'd Man, taught me his Business according to our Agreement, and was exceeding kind to me. Nothing very material happen'd during the Time of my Servitude; and, when I came to be for myself, having a great Desire to see the World, I went Gunner's Servant on board the *Tork* Man of War.

In the Year 1726, we went with Sir *John Fennings* to *Lisbon* and *Gibraltar*; where, after we had continu'd about twenty Months, we return'd Home, and I receiv'd my Wages at *Plymouth*. I do not mention the Particulars of our Voyage, as almost every Thing that occur'd has already been publish'd some Years ago.

Soon after I had receiv'd my Wages, I enter'd on board the *Experiment*, a Sixth Rate Man of War, Capt. *Radish* Commander, and went to *Newfoundland*, *Cancer*, and *Nova-Scotia*; from thence we convoy'd the Merchantmen to *Lisbon*, and so Home: After which I got my Ticket, and was clear of the Ship.

When I came to *Plymouth*, I happen'd to come in Company with one Mr. *James Churchill*, who had a Puppet-Show in the Town; and who promis'd me, if I would go with him, he would teach me the Trumpet.

Being

JAMES WYATT. 9

Being now a little weary of the Sea, and having a great Desire to learn on that Instrument, I agreed to go with him. I travell'd with him four Years in *England*, during which Time I learn'd the Trumpet, and some other Musick.

After I left Mr. *Churchill*, I follow'd my Business of Woolcombing and Dying three Years, at *Trowbridge* in *Wiltshire*, near *Bath*; during which Time I married, and liv'd very well: But Mr. *Motet* coming into the Town with his Collection of wild Beasts, and wanting a Trumpeter, I agreed to go with him, and travell'd near four Years with him in that Capacity.

It would be needless to give an Account of the several Towns I travell'd through in *England*, as they are generally well known, and Books almost every where to be had which describe them: And, as to myself, nothing very extraordinary happen'd. I shall therefore proceed to the chief Thing I-intended, viz. to give a particular Account of every Thing that occur'd worthy Notice, from my going on board the *Revenge* Privateer, to my returning to *England*, and I believe the Reader will not think the Time ill spent in perusing it.

After I left Mr. *Motet*, I enter'd as a Trumpeter on board the *Revenge* Privateer, Capt. *James Wimble* Commander, on the Twenty-ninth of *May*, 1741, who was going on a Cruize against the *Spaniards*.

On the Second of *July* we left the *Hope*, and the same Day pass'd through the *Downs*, Drums beating, Trumpets sounding, and Colours

10 *The Life and Adventures of*

ours flying. At *Deal* we set our Agent ashore, and saluted him with seven Guns; but a Man of War lying in the *Downs* return'd the Salute with five, thinking it was intended as a Complement to him.

The Third of *July* we went into *Hastings*. Here the Captain went ashore to see some of his Friends, whom he brought on board a short Time after. While they were on board making merry, the Captain discover'd a Sail, and order'd us to give her Chace. We made all the Sail we could, and in about an Hour came up with her. We fir'd twice at her before she would bring to, which made us imagine she would prove a Prize, but we afterwards found her to be a *French* Fishing-Boat, with twenty-four Hands on board. After examining her, and finding no Fire-Arms, or prohibited Goods on board, we discharg'd her, not at that Time being at War with *France*.

The Ninth of *July* we saw three Sail off the Coast of *France*. We gave them Chace, and after some Time came up with two of them. They prov'd to be *French* Vessels, laden with Salt. One of the Captains told our Lieutenant, who was sent on board him in order to search his Vessel, that he had spoke with the third Sail, which we saw to the Leeward; that she came from *Malaga*; and that she was laden with *Spanish* Goods.

Upon this Information we immediately gave her Chace; and, though she made all the Sail she could from us, yet in about three or four Hours we came up with her, she being but an indifferent

JAMES WYATT 11

indifferent Sailer. We fir'd four Times at her. She had made every Thing ready to fight us, but seeing the Number of our Hands (which were an Hundred in all, though three Parts of them were Boys) she at length brought to. We brought the Captain and Mate on board our Ship, and put twelve of our Men on board theirs, one of which was the Master, and our Captain gave him Orders to carry her into *Plymouth*.

When the Mate of the Ship we had taken came on board our Ship, and saw how poorly we were mann'd, he said, had he known it before, the Ship should not have been carried into *Plymouth* by us; upon which we imagin'd she would prove a good Prize.

The Tenth of *July* we got safe into *Cartwater*, pass'd by the *Hastings* Man of War in the *Sound*, and saluted the Fort at Ten o'Clock at Night; but the Salute was not return'd, it being too late.

On the Eleventh of *July* Mr. *William Warren*, our Second Lieutenant, was sent Express to *London*, in order to acquaint the Owners with our Success. He return'd to *Plymouth* in about eight or ten Days, and brought Mr. *Parker*, our Chief Agent, with him. When they came, our Lieutenant told us, he was sure she would prove a good Prize. In searching the Ship we had taken, we found several Things that were not in her Bills of Lading, particularly two Casks of Camphire: And while we stay'd at *Plymouth*, which was about three Weeks,

11 *The Life and Adventures of*

Weeks, we search'd the Ship continually to see what we could find.

The Agent brought with him from *London* about three Hundred Pounds, which he lent to those of the Ship's Company whom he judg'd most deserving, of which I had about Forty Shillings.

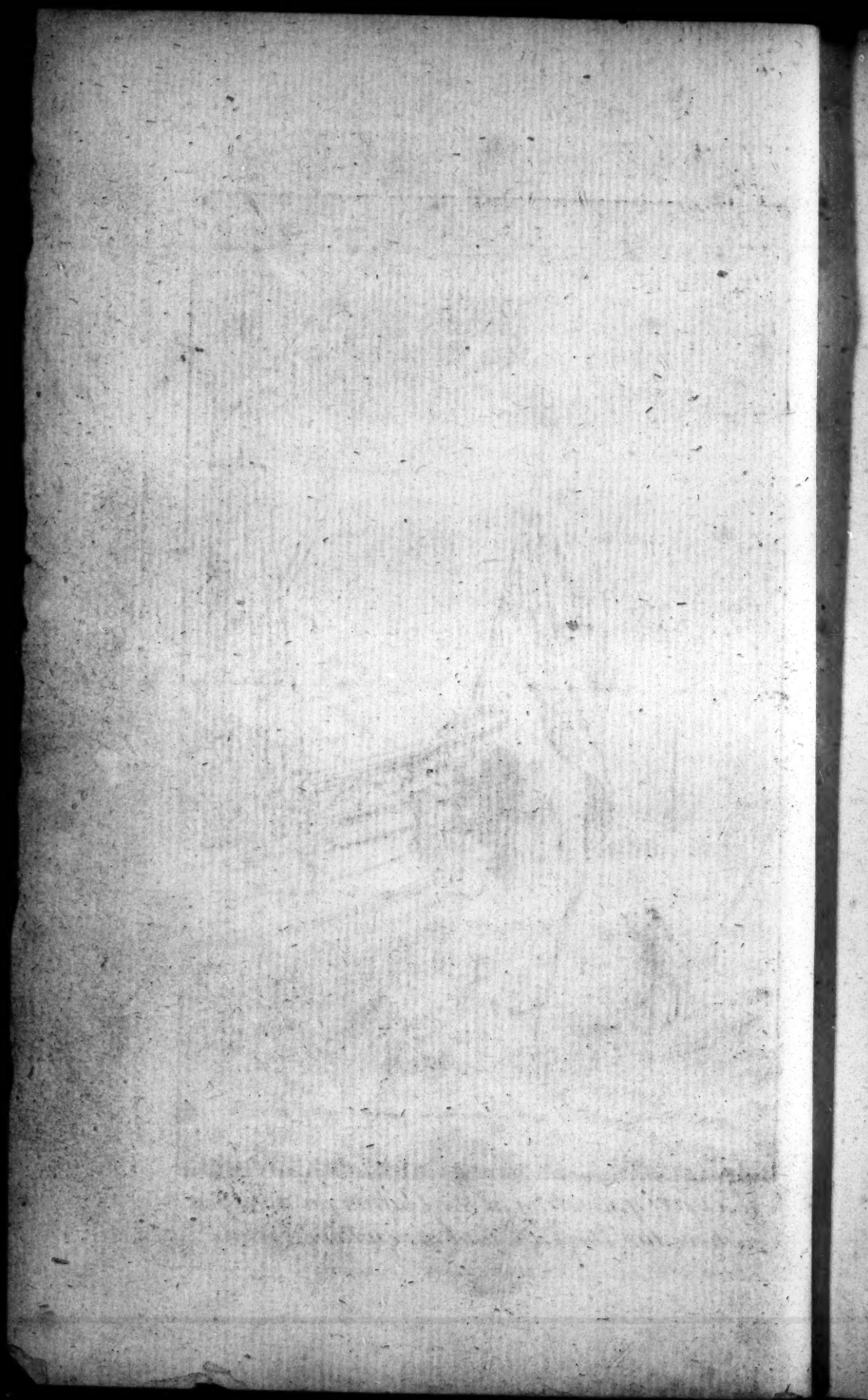
While our Ship lay at *Plymouth*, I went to *Wenbury*, to see my Mistress, my Master being dead. She receiv'd me very kindly, and would have had me settled to my Business. I told her at present I could not, because I belong'd to a Privateer that lay at *Plymouth*, and was oblig'd to return there again in two or three Days. After staying a Day or two with her, the Captain sent for me, and I return'd to *Plymouth*.

When I came to our Ship, I found one of our Midshipmen (whose Name I have forgot) was drowned in *Catwater*, in endeavouring to swim ashore. He was buried very decently in the new Churchyard, in *Plymouth*; and those of our Men that made the best Appearance, and which we were sure would not run away, attended at the Funeral. Every one had a Pair of Pistols stuck in his Belt, a Hanger by his Side, and there were Swords cross'd on the Coffin-Lid.

While we lay in *Catwater*, one Mr. *James Parry* (sometime Organist of *Ross* in *Herefordshire*, and Author of a Book, entitled, *Memoirs of the Life of Mr. James Parry, &c.*) our Master at Arms, having some Words with me,



*Mr. Parry shooting at the Author for going a
shore tho' the Capt. had given him leave.*



JAMES WYATT. 13.

me, challenged me to fight him at Small Sword. I readily accepted the Challenge; but the next Day, when we were to have gone ashore, the Small Sword was objected against by some of the Ship's Company, as a Weapon that did not belong to the Ship; and therefore it was insisted, if we were resolv'd to fight, it should be with Hanger and Pistol: But Mr. *Parry* refused to fight me with those Weapons.

A few Hours after this Affair was over, I ask'd our Captain, who was then going ashore, if I might go to *Plymouth*. He told me, when the Boat returned, which would be in about Half an Hour, I might go. On the Boat's returning, I went into her, but Mr. *Parry* order'd me to come back, pretending that the Captain had left no Orders for me to go; and order'd the Centry, if I offer'd to put off the Boat, to fire at me, he being the principal Officer that Time on board.

I took the Boat-Hook, and push'd off the Boat; upon which the Centry not firing, as Mr. *Parry* had commanded him, he took the Musquet from him, and immediately fir'd at me, which went through one of the Oars, and took off a Piece of the Rollock. Mr. *Parry's* firing the Musquet at me so intimidated the Men, that they were afraid to row; but, being resolv'd to go ashore, as I had ask'd Leave of the Captain, I took up the Oars and row'd myself.

When I came ashore, having found the Captain, I acquainted him with what had hap-
B
pen'd,

14 *The Life and Adventures of*

pen'd, and he assur'd me I should have Satisfaction. In a little Time the Captain came aboard, and I with him. We immediately went to Mr. *Parry's* Hammock; but finding him asleep, and very drunk, the Captain desir'd I would take no Notice of it at that Time. When he was up, we tax'd him with it, - but he swore he knew nothing of it; and, as he said he was heartily sorry for what we told him he had done, I assur'd him I freely forgave him, and I should concern myself no farther about it.

I observed before, that I had about Forty Shillings of the Agent; with that Money, and some I had of my own, I bought an Hundred Weight of Biscuits, and some other Things, which I afterwards sold to good Advantage in the Ship.

The First of *August* the Captain told us, he intended to sail as the next Day in search of a *Spanish* Privateer that infested the Channel. This was contrary to the Inclinations of the Men, who wanted to see their Prize condemn'd and to have their Prize-Money, before they set sail. At length they were prevail'd on by the Captain and Agent to go, under Pretence that they should Cruize but a few Days and then return again, though in Fact they went for the whole Voyage.

The Second of *August*, 1741, we set sail from *Plymouth*, the Wind at E. At Night saw the *Edystone*.

The Third of *August*, in the Morning, we saw a Sail to the S. E. We made all the Sail
we

JAMES WYATT. 15

we could after her, thinking it was the *Spanish* Privateer we were in quest of. When we came pretty near her, they fir'd three Shot at us, one of which went very near the End of our Bowsprit, where I was founding my Trumpet. We fir'd at them again, and then they made a Signal for our Boat to come aboard. Accordingly several of our Men went aboard, of which I was one, the Captain having promis'd to encourage me if I put myself forward, by reason his Ship was so badly mann'd; after which I miss'd no Opportunity of going with the Boat. The Ship prov'd to be the *Hastings* Man of War, which we saw in *Plymouth* Sound. Our Lieutenant was order'd into the Cabbin, to know why we fir'd at an *English* Man of War; and the Captain told him, he had a good mind to impress all our Men for it, and send him back to *Plymouth*. The Lieutenant reply'd, we did not know it was an *English* Man of War, but took it for a *Spanish* Privateer.

After the Lieutenant had taken Leave of the Captain, we all got into our Boat, and went to our own Ship. Our Captain order'd us to hoist in the Boat and make Sail. We immediately sail'd under the Stern of the *Hastings*, and gave her three Cheers, which she return'd. She sail'd to the Northward, and we to the Westward. We cruiz'd the Channel two Days afterwards, but met with nothing.

The Sixth of *August* we saw two Sail. We gave them Chace. They fir'd several Shot at us from their Stern-Chace, but we reserv'd ours till we came up with them. When we came

16 *The Life and Adventures of*

near them, and discover'd they were *English*, we fir'd a Gun to the Leward to let them know we were Friends. They brought to, and desir'd the Captain would send his Boat aboard one of them, and they would make him a Present of a Cask of Rum. We hoisted our Boat out and went aboard, and the Captain gave us the Cask of Rum. I ask'd him, if he would please to sell me four Gallons for myself; which he kindly let me have, but refus'd to take any Money for it. When the Captain saw me, he said, what you are the Trumpeter are you? Pox rake your Trumpet, I was not afraid till I heard that, for then I took your Ship for a *Spanish Privateer*.

Before we came away, we ask'd him what the other Ship was, He told us it was his Consort; upon which we return'd him Thanks, and left him. They were two Homeward-bound *West-India* Ships, but their Names I have forgot, having lost my Journal when I was taken Prisoner by the *Moors*. When we came to our Ship, we hoisted our Boat in, and steer'd again to the Westward.

The Seventh of *August* we chose Mr. *Bardriff* to be Agent for the Ship's Company. Nothing material happen'd for six or seven Days (during which Time we coasted chiefly the *Spanish Shore*) except seeing a few *French* and *Dutch* Vessels, and examining them; but as we were not at War with either of those Nations, and they had no prohibited Goods aboard, we dismiss'd them.

The

JAMES WYATT. 17

The Fifteenth of *August*, in the Morning, as we were cruising off *Oporto*, we saw two Sail. We gave Chace to one, and quickly came up with her. She prov'd to be a *Dutch* Sloop from *Faro*; the Captain of which inform'd us, that we had several *English* Men of War lay there. He likewise inform'd us, that there was a *Spanish* Privateer cruising off *Cape St. Vincent*, which mounted ten Carriage and six Swivel Guns, and carried sixty Men. We then ask'd him what the other Vessel was which we saw, but he told us he did not know.

We left him, and immediately stood away for the other Vessel; but it growing Calm, and a Fog arising, we lost Sight of her. About two Hours after we got Sight of her again. We gave her Chace, and in a small Time came up with her. We hoisted out our Boat, went aboard, and to our great Surprise, we found she had no Hands aboard. She had *Swedish* Colours and all her Sails abroad. Our Captain order'd Mr. *Davis*, the first Lieutenant, and seven Men to go aboard, and carry her to *Cape Fear* in *South Carolina*. That Night we lost Sight of her, and I never saw her no more; but have since heard she was brought into *England*.

The Sixteenth of *August* we pass'd by the *Borlings*, and saw the Rock at *Lisbon*. Our Captain sent the Boat ashore to one of the *Borlings*, where the Garrison is kept, to desire Leave to take in fresh Water, but we were not able to obtain it: However they gave us Plenty of Water Melons; and we purchas'd a
great

18 *The Life and Adventures of*

great many Fish, which are very plentiful, on Account of some Hundreds of Fishing-Boats which go there to catch them for the City of *Lisbon*. After we had got what Provisions we could, we came aboard in our Boat, made Sail, and saluted the Garrison with five Guns: They return'd it with three, but one happened to have Shot in it.

The Seventeenth of *August*, in the Morning, we saw ten or twelve Sail of large Ships between us and the Land, going, as we thought, into *Lisbon*, which we took to be some *Engliss* Men of War. We endeavour'd to come nearer Shore; and coming within two Leagues of Land we discover'd a Sail, which we took to be the *Spanish* Privateer the *Dutch* Captain inform'd us of. She was coming, as we imagin'd, towards *Lisbon*; but seeing us she tack'd about, and stood to the Southward. As there was but little Wind stirring we put out our Oars, and gave her Chace; and, as soon as she perceiv'd we got Ground of her, she endeavour'd to run ashore. Our Captain order'd the Boat out and commanded us to make after her as fast as possible, in order to discover what she was. Mr. *James Tinmouth*, our Master, commanded the Boat. We were seven in the Boat besides himself; and, in less than an Hour, we came within Musquet Shot of her. When we came first near her, we found she row'd with five Oars on one Side, and but two on the other. This made us suspect the more that this was the *Spanish* Privateer we were searching after; of which we could not be cer-
tain,

JAMES WYATT. 19

tain, there not being Wind enough to blow the Colours open.

Our Master told us, we were now come too near her to turn back ; for says he, if we go back now, they will fire after us, and do us as much Mischief as if we go on ; so we went under her Stern, and she fir'd two Swivel Guns at us. We receiv'd no farther Damage by their firing, than one of the Balls splitting the Blade of one of our Oars.

After they had fir'd, our Master stepp'd forward to the two Blunderbusses that were plac'd in the Bow of the Boat, and said, my Boys, you shall not have all the Play to yourselves ; and so fir'd one at them, which broke the Cabin Windows ; and one of the Balls broke the Compass, which hung in the Captain's Cabin : Upon which one from over the Stern call'd out in the *Portuguese* Language, we are *Portuguese*, keep off your Boat. Our Master answer'd in our Language, we are *English* ; and swore he would come aboard. They then told us, if we were *English* we were welcome to come aboard, and directly brought to.

The *Portuguese* receiv'd us very kindly, and had got a Cask of Wine on the Deck for us to drink as much as we pleas'd ; being over-joy'd to find we were *English*, for they took us for *Algerines*. The Ship was laden with Salt, from *Cape Verd*, but its Name I have forgot.

Our Ship came up to us in less than an Hour, and we took our Boat and went aboard. Our Captain finding one of us missing, said, I hope none of you are hurt by the Shot, where

20 *The Life and Adventures of*

is *Jones*? for he saw the *Portuguese* fire at us. Our Master answer'd we are all safe but him, and he is dead at the Bottom of the Boat. As we came along Side, our Ship's Company look'd over the Gunnel of the Ship and began to pity him, saying he was the first Man that had the Misfortune to be kill'd.

They let down the Tekel to hoist him in, and the Man who took him in his Arms to lay him on the Deck, said, he was sure he was not quite dead, for he could perceive he breath'd. After he had laid him on the Deck, he turn'd him over, to see where he was wounded; but our Master coming over the Ship's Side, said, Pox take him, don't trouble yourself any more about him; it is the *Portuguese* Wine, and not their Balls, that has made him in this Condition; he is only dead drunk: Which made our Ship's Company laugh heartily.

After we had put *Jones* into his Hammock, our Captain order'd us to take the Boat and fetch the *Portuguese* Captain aboard; which we accordingly did, and he made our Captain a Present of a Cask of Wine; who, in return, gave him a Score of Stock-Fish, and about ten Pounds of Tobacco.

The *Portuguese* Captain continu'd on board our Ship till about Six in the Evening, and when he took his Leave, we saluted each other with five Guns.

This Night came on a terrible Storm of Thunder and Lightening; which very much frighten'd our young Sailors, they having never been in a Storm before.

The

JAMES WYATT. 21

The Eighteenth of *August* we sail'd round the Bay of *Cadiz*, but met with nothing material. We stood away cross the Streights of *Gibraltar* to the *African* Shore, and off *Cape Cantin*, just at the going down of the Sun, we saw a Sail. About ten at Night we fell in with her. We fir'd a Gun, and made her bring to. We hoisted out our Boat, went aboard her, and found her to be a *French* Tartane, laden with Copper from *Santa Cruz*, in *Barbary*. We kept her in Custody all Night, intending the next Day to examine her Cargo.

The next Day, being the Nineteenth of *August*, we went to examine her, and found above forty Persons on board, who were chiefly *Jews* and *Moors*. The *Jews*, most of them, spoke *Spanish*, which made our Captain imagine they were *Spaniards*, trading in *French* Bottoms. One, in particular, had several Thousand Sequins on board. We took him and his Chest, and brought aboard our Ship, where we kept him several Hours. At length we dismiss'd him, on his offering to leave something as his Ransom; which, however, was to be return'd him, provided he prov'd he belong'd to the *French*.

The Twentieth of *August*, in the Morning, we went into *Sophia Bay*; where, seeing two Sail, we ran in between them as they lay at Anchor. They were Tartanes, but the Wind blowing hard we were afraid to let go our Anchor, or hoist out our Boat, the Sea ran so high. We hail'd them, and they told us, they were
French

22 *The Life and Adventures of*

French laden with Copper from *Santa Cruz*, in *Barbary*, and were bound for *Marseilles*.

This the *Tartane* we met with Yesterday likewise told us; but we were afterwards inform'd, that these three *Tartanes* had taken the Money out of a *Galleon* that came into *Santa Cruz*, in the Island of *Teneriffe*, which is one of the *Canary* Islands; that we might justly have taken them, being really *Spaniards*; and that they only traded in *French* Bottoms.

We stood off and on to Sea two Days more, but met with nothing material.

The Twenty-third of *August* we anchor'd in the Bay of *Santa Cruz*, in *Barbary*, within two Leagues of the Town.

The Twenty-fourth of *August* a *Moor's* Boat came off from the *Barbary* Shore, with about fourteen or fifteen Hands on board her. She came almost within Musquet Shot of us. We made a Sign for them to come on board, but could not prevail with them to come any nearer.

Our Captain order'd our *Yawl* to be hoisted out, and four Hands and our *Lieutenant* (of which I was one) to row up to the Boat to know what they wanted, and whether they could spare us any Water. As soon as they saw our Boat coming, they took to their Oars, and row'd towards Land. We kept calling to them, but they made no Answer, yet kept beckoning us to follow them; which we did, though they fir'd two Musquets on board our Ship for us to return.

When

JAMES WYATT. 23

When we came ashore, there stood about thirty Men under Arms to receive us ; one of which, who was very neatly dress'd after the *Moorish* Fashion, gave us to understand he was their Captain. Their Arms were the neatest I ever saw. The Captain ask'd us in bad *Spanish*, what Nation we were of. Our Linguist answer'd we were *English*, and that we wanted Water. The Captain told him, if he was sure we were *English*, he would serve us in any Thing that lay in his Power, provided it did not clash with the Allegiance he ow'd his Prince ; for that he himself had been taken up by the *English*, and very kindly us'd, when he made his Escape from the *Spaniards* at *Malaga*, after he had been three or four Years a Prisoner. He told us, he and twelve others escaped in a Boat which had but one Oar ; that they had been nine Days on the Sea, and had hardly any Refreshment ; that at length they were taken up by an *English* Man of War, the Captain of which was exceeding kind to him, and us'd all possible Means to recover him, he being at that Time very sick and weak ; and that he afterwards kindly carried him into *Tangier*, where his Brother was Bassaw. He then desir'd we would leave two of our Men as Hostages, and he would send two of his, to enquire whether we were really *English*.

Accordingly the Boat went away with two of his Men in it, and the Linguist and I were left. We were conducted to an old Castle, which lay within about a Quarter of a Mile of the Shore. As we went to the Castle, the
Moorish

24 *The Life and Adventures of*

Moorish Captain was very familiar with us, and talk'd very pleasantly to the Linguist. When we came there, he order'd us some boil'd Rice, which was very fine. It was dish'd up after the *Moorish* Manner, had a Hole made in the Middle, and a great deal of Oil pour'd therein. We had a Dish with Honey set by it; and he told our Linguist we might eat it either with the Oil or with the Honey. We ask'd for Spoons, but was told they us'd none, but eat it out of the Hollow of the Hand.

After we had eaten very heartily of this, they brought us in two Water-Melons; one of which was the largest I ever saw, and weigh'd near sixty Pounds Weight. We cut the least into Quarters, of which we eat very heartily, as we had not had any fresh Provisions for a long Time; and as to the other, they told us we should take it on board with us.

When we had sufficiently regal'd ourselves, we took a Walk with the *Moorish* Captain round the Castle, as he call'd it; though I have seen a Barn in *England* that has made a great deal better Appearance. While we were walking with him, one of his Men came puffing and blowing, and told the Captain, that our Ship was going off with his Men, which surpriz'd him very much. He told us what the Man said, and desir'd us to go to the other Part of the Castle, where we might see the Ship very plain, and know whether it was true or not.

Accordingly we went, and saw the Ship under Sail. I told him, that the Men which he had
sent

JAMES WYATT. 25

sent to our Ship having told our Captain that his Honour would be pleas'd to furnish us with such Necessaries as he could spare, they had hove up the Anchor, and had taken a Stretch off, in order to bring the Ship nearer in, for the Conveniency of coming and going with the Boat; and that, in about Half an Hour, he would see the Ship tack about: But all we could say could not make him believe it. He told us, in a very genteel and pretty Manner, that he must be oblig'd to put us in Prison till he saw our Ship come to an Anchor; but as soon as she did, we should be immediately releas'd. We readily consented, and was put into a Dungeon in the Castle. They put three or four Mats on the Ground, that we might not catch Cold from the Dampness of the Place. It had only a little Hole to let in the Light, and was very dark and dismal; but we were exceeding merry, having just had a delicious Meal, and knowing we should soon be releas'd.

Before we had been an Hour in this Dungeon the Door was open'd, and we were at Liberty to come out. When we came out, we saw our Ship at Anchor, at about Half a League from the Shore; and in about Half an Hour after, we saw our Boat coming ashore. Upon this the Captain and his Men, who were still under Arms, bore us Company to the Sea-Side, where our Boat was to land.

When our Men came ashore, they brought the two *Moors* with them. The *Moorish* Captain gave our Men Leave to cut Wood and get
C
Water,

26 *The Life and Adventures of*

Water, which they did. The Wood was short, stumpy Stuff; and the Water, though very good, yet was got with great Difficulty: Nor could they possibly get above a Hoghead in an Hour, the Spring being a very small one. They got about a Hoghead and a Half of Water, and a pretty deal of Wood, which they carried on board.

While our Men were getting the Water and Wood, I had the Pleasure of seeing some of the *Moorish* Sports. The Soldiers took each other by one Hand, and dexterously, with a little Touch, tripp'd one another up. Being resolv'd to be satisfy'd whether they fell not on Purpose, I took one of them by the Hand; and, though I endeavour'd all I could to throw him, yet he had me down in an Instant. This I could not have believ'd, had I not try'd it.

Another Diversion they had, which was to run to a particular Place; but before they set out, each Man threw one of his Sandals as far as he could throw it, which he was to pick up as he ran to the Place appointed. This they did with such surprizing Agility, that though the Place appointed was always much farther then they could throw the Sandal, yet it was hardly possible to tell when they stoop'd to pick it up. I confess, I never saw Men so active in my Life, and I was very much pleas'd to see their Pastimes.

I made the *Moorish* Captain a Present of an Ivory clasp'd Knife, with which he was very much pleas'd; and he gave me, in return, a Dozen of Fowls: He likewise gave our Lieutenant

JAMES WYATT. 27

tenant and Agent fix Goats. We bought nothing, though there was a *Moor* offer'd to sell us a Cow, for which he ask'd near eight Pounds *English* Money, but we thought it much to dear, it being very small.

We got every Thing ready in order to go on board; but, while we were talking with the *Moors*, the Men who were left to look after the Boat let her go aground, and in getting her afloat fill'd her full of Water, so that the Goats and all the Fowls were drowned. After she was afloat I swam at her Bow with one Hand, and shov'd with the other, one of our Men being in her at the same Time heaving out the Water. All the rest of the Men had left her, the Sea running very high, and they not knowing how to swim.

After he had pretty well clear'd the Boat of the Water, I endeavour'd to save some of the Fowls, but they were dead; however I pull'd their Heads off, after which they bled pretty much, and were very good eating.

Our Agent desir'd the *Moors* to launch their Boat, and to bring him and the other Men to our Boat, but they would not, as their Captain was gone away, unless he gave them something for their Trouble, (I think it was two Sequins) which he was oblig'd to do, there being no other Boat near the Place. Accordingly they took them in their Boat and brought them to us, and we all got safe on board our own Ship.

The Twenty-fifth of *August* we weigh'd Anchor, and set sail for the *Canary* Islands.

28 *The Life and Adventures of*

Nothing material happen'd for two or three Days.

The Twenty-eighth of *August* we saw one of the *Canary* Islands, call'd *Lancerota*. Our Captain would have sent the Boat ashore to have got some more Water, but was afraid the Place might be fortified, as it belong'd to the *Spaniards*, and we were then at War with them.

The Twenty-ninth of *August* we were under the East Side of *Forte Ventura*, another of the *Canary* Islands, which we coasted round all that Day. Towards the going down of the Sun we saw Abundance of Flying-Fish. The Captain told us, there were certainly Dolphins near; and bid us, if any of us had any Lines, to put them in. I had two or three Lines with me, and some Cod-Hooks, which I had bought in *London*. I lent one of my Lines to our Master, and the other I baited myself. He baited his with a Piece of Pork stuck with Feathers, to imitate the Flying-Fish, and in about ten Minutes he hook'd one; but, in hauling of it in, it got off the Hook. The Master being call'd in to trim the Sails, desir'd me to look after the Line, and I should have Half for what I caught for him. In a few Minutes after he was gone, one of the Captain's Servants, who had hold of the Line, cry'd out, Trumpeter, Trumpeter, come and help, for I have got a Fish. I ran to him, and help'd him haul it up. It was a Dolphin of about Twenty-four Pounds Weight, and look'd very beautiful when it first came out of the Water.

JAMES WYATT. 29

Water. I sold my Share to the Captain for a Bottle of Rum, and a Pound of Sugar,

About Ten at Night we lay to, being little or no Wind; and, as we were talking and laughing together, something struck hard against our Main-Sail, and fell on the Deck. It prov'd to be a Flying-Fish. It was eighteen Inches long, and twenty-two broad from the Tip of each Wing. We dress'd it, and I had the Pleasure to eat Part of it, being the first of that Kind I had ever tasted.

The Thirtieth of *August*, about Four in the Morning, it blew very hard, and our Master being forward, saw the Breakers just ahead; upon which he cry'd out, we are almost ashore. We got under Sail immediately, and stretch'd clear off the Ridge of Rocks which run out to the Westward, the Wind being then at N.E. We stretch'd away for the *Grand Canary*, and lay near that Island the Remainder of the Day. Nothing material happening, we continu'd there all Night.

The Thirty-first of *August*, in the Morning, we made sail for the Pike of *Teneriffe*; and, about Five in the Evening, we got under Point *Niger*, and lay by all Night.

The First of *September*, in the Morning, we saw a Sail, about two Leagues from the Land, bearing directly towards us. As we lay close under Land, they could not see us till they came almost upon us; but, as soon as they saw us, they made all the sail they possibly could towards the *Grand Canary*.

We

30 *The Life and Adventures of*

We began the Chace about Ten o'Clock in the Morning, and pursu'd them for several Hours. About Three in the Afternoon we came within Gun-shot of them. We fir'd several Shot at them, but the Wind blowing fresh carry'd away our Flying-Gib-Boom, and we were forc'd to take in our Top-Gallant-Sail. This gave them an Opportunity of escaping us, as she was a stiffer Ship then ours, and could carry her Sails better aloft. At Eight o'Clock at Night we lost Sight of her; and then we put about, and stood for the Pike of *Teneriffe* again. The Ship we had given Chace to all this Day was the *Triumph* Snow, as we were afterwards inform'd.

The Second of *September*, in the Morning, we saw two Sail to the Windward, between the *Grand Canary* and *Teneriffe*. We gave them Chace for several Hours, they still endeavouring to get into *Santa Cruz* Bay; but, being to the Leeward of them, they could not get in, without falling into our Hands.

About Four o'Clock in the Afternoon one of our Chace weather'd Point *Niger*, and got into Port *Oratavia*: The other endeavour'd to get between us and the Land, into *Santa Cruz* Bay, but we intercepted her, fir'd a Shot at her, and brought her to. She was a *Ham-burgh* Ship, Captain *Haws*, Commander. She came that Morning out of *Santa Cruz* Bay, was laden with Pipe-Staves, and was going to Port *Oratavia*. We took a'l her Hands out of her, put in some of ours, and lay to all Night.

The

JAMES WYATT. 31

The Third of *September*, in the Morning, we went on board the *Hamburgh Ship*, in order to search if we could find any Thing to make a Prize of her. About Ten o'Clock in the Morning we saw a Vessel to the Windward. Our Captain order'd the Master, who was put on board the *Hamburgh Ship*, to keep as close to us as possible. We made sail, and stood towards her, and she bore directly down upon us. In about Half an Hour's Time we discover'd her to be an arm'd Vessel, which our Captain took to be a *Spanish Privateer*, and accordingly gave Orders to get all ready to fight her.

When she came near us, they fir'd three Guns at us from her Bow Chace. Our Captain order'd us not to fire till we came along Side, and then to give her a Broadside, at which Time our Shot would do Execution. When we came near her, we threw out our Colours, and fir'd a Shot at her. They immediately brought to, hoisted out her Boat, and came on board us. She prov'd to be an *English Privateer*, and came from *Gibraltar*. We ask'd them, what Success they had met with: They told us, they had been cruizing for a Month, and had taken nothing but a few Fishing-Boats. We inform'd them of the Ship we had given Chace to two Days before; and, describing her, they told us it was the *Triumph Snow*, their Consort (which I have mention'd before) and that they were to meet each other near the *Canary Islands*.

We

32 *The Life and Adventures of*

We kept Company with this Privateer all this Day, and the Night following, during which Time nothing material happen'd.

The Fourth of *September*, in the Morning, the Captain of the Privateer inform'd us, that he had been ashore at Point *Niger*, and had brought off several Cattle, and two Pipes of Wine; that there were several Pipes of Wine in the Cellar from whence he took the two, but that his Boat was so deep laden he could not bring any more away. He also inform'd our Captain that it was a Place of no Strength, for that about twelve or fourteen of our People might fetch all the Wine away in our Boat, without any Danger.

The Captain of the *Hamburg* Ship likewise told us, that there was a Galleon in *Santa Cruz* Bay, which was going to the *Havanna*, only she had not her Sails bent. Our Captain was for sailing into the Bay, and cutting her from her Anchor, but it was thought to be running too great a Hazard.

The Fifth of *September* we discharg'd the *Hamburg* Ship. The Wind blowing hard at N. we were not able to weather Point *Niger*, though we us'd our utmost Endeavours to do it.

At Night the *Hamburg* Ship fell in with us again. We took the Captain and Mate on board us, and put some of our Hands on board her. The Reason of our taking her again into Custody, was, for fear she should get round Point *Niger* before us, and so into Port *Oratavia*,

JAMES WYATT. 33

Oratavia, and discover our Design to the *Spaniards*.

The Sixth of *September*, about Ten o'Clock in the Morning, we weather'd Point *Niger*, and the *Hamburgh* Man with us. As soon as we came to the Northward of the Point, we hoisted out the Yawl, and all our Hands were called on Deck to know who would go ashore to get the Wine, which the Privateer had inform'd us lay there in a Cellar.

Our Master and the Second Lieutenant chose out eleven Men to go with them, of which I was one. As soon as we were going into the Boat, the Captain of the *Hamburgh* Ship desir'd our Captain not to let us go; telling him, that the Captain of the Privateer was mistaken, for that in reality it was a very hazardous Enterprize, there being many Inhabitants near that Place; and that, if they overcame us, they would certainly destroy us all: However, we got into the Boat, and row'd as fast as we could towards Land.

When the *Spaniards* saw our Boat coming, they began to sound their Cows Horns to call their People together. When we came pretty near the Shore, we saw several Men behind the Rocks, who began to throw Stones at us with great Fury, though they did not do us much Damage; upon which our Master ask'd us, if we were all willing to land. We told him, one and all, we were. He then order'd two of the Men to keep in the Boat, and the other nine, himself, and the Lieutenant landed, though

34 *The Life and Adventures of*

though the *Spaniards* kept pelting us with Stones all the while.

As soon as we landed, the Men that had thrown Stones at us ran away. We march'd up in very good Order to the Cellar where we thought to have found the Wine; but, when we came there, it was all taken away. There were several Womens Shifts in the Place, which we took, and put on over our other Apparel, which caus'd us to make a very comical Appearance.

We found some Grapes, Figs, Abundance of Onions, and two Pipes of Vinegar, but no Wine: We likewise shot two Hogs, some Fowls, &c. and got some other Plunder.

By this Time the Country was up in Arms, and we could perceive near an Hundred upon the Hills, which were directly over-against us, who began to throw Stones at us. They likewise fir'd at us several Times, but did us no Hurt. We kept a constant Fire at them, whenever they came within Gun-shot; but we did them no great Harm, as they kept behind the Rocks, only peeping out now and then to pelt us with Stones.

As we saw a great Multitude coming down the Hills to their Assistance, and we being but Eleven in Number (the other two being left to take care of the Boat) we made to her as fast as we could.

When our Men that were in the Boat saw us coming towards them, they haul'd up the Grapling, and row'd as fast as they could towards

n
l
b
e
n
e
s
-
I
f
o
a

o
n
-
s
o
e
l
o

n
t
o
s

s
e
c
s



Their returning from plundering Point Niger, with the Spaniards pelting them with Stones.

wards the Shore, to take us in; but when they came within a Boat's Length of the Shore, they unfortunately run her upon a sunken Rock, and hung her just by the Middle.

By this Mischance we had like, every Man of us, to have lost our Lives; for the *Spaniards* throwing Stones from the Hills down upon us, we all run into the Boat, before the two Men could get her off.

The Water, where she was hung, was about four Feet deep, and every one striving who should get in first, we wet all our Arms and Ammunition, so that we lay open to our Enemies, without being able to defend ourselves.

The *Spaniards* seeing this, and knowing our Ammunition was wet, because we had ceas'd firing, came running down to the Shore, and throw'd Stones at us with greater Fury than ever.

Our Master seeing us in such eminent Danger, order'd me to hold the Rudder, while two of our Men jump'd over-board and hove off the Boat. I unhung the Rudder accordingly, and held before their Heads, to prevent their being kill'd with the Stones which the *Spaniards* kept continually throwing at us.

While I was holding the Rudder I receiv'd two terrible Wounds on my Head; the one on the upper Part of my Forehead, the other just above my Left-Ear. I had likewise a slight Wound on my Left-Arm; notwithstanding which I held the Rudder before the Men, to keep them as much as possible from Danger.

The

36 *The Life and Adventures of*

The Men, with great Difficulty, got off the Boat. We got them in, and hung the Rudder on again. There was not a Man in the Boat but what was wounded: One, in particular, whose Name was *Robert Walmfley*, had like to have been kill'd, being dangerously wounded on the Right-Side of his Head. Before we row'd off, we gave them three Cheers (*i. e.* Huzzas) and then row'd to our own Ship.

I brought on board, for my Part of the Plunder, a new Smock, a Bell-metal Pestle and Mortar, two Pewter Plates, and a few Onions, which was more than was got by any other Person; but, in getting into our Boat, I lost one of my Pistols; which I afterwards saw when I was taken Prisoner, with several others, which the rest of the Crew had lost.

When we came on board, the Doctor and his Mate dress'd us all. We made sail, stood in nearer the Land, and fir'd five or six Shot at a Gentleman's House that stood within a Quarter of a Mile of the Cellar, where we had been to seek after the Wine; but I never heard, when I was afterwards taken Prisoner, that they did any Damage. We put about, and stood off for that Night, with the *Hamburgh* Ship still in our Company.

The Seventh of *September*, in the Morning, we went on board the *Hamburgh* Ship, and search'd her again, for our Captain still suspected she had *Spanish* Goods on board; but, finding none, he discharg'd her, after taking out her Pilot, who was a *Spaniard*.

The

JAMES WYATT. 37

The Reason of our taking the *Spanish* Pilot, was, because our Captain design'd he should pilot us into Port *Oratavia*, that we might cut out what Vessels lay there: But the Captain of the *Hamburgh* Ship told him it was a Thing impracticable, for the Place was very strong, there being two Batteries and a Castle.

This our Captain did not believe, and threaten'd to hang the *Spanish* Pilot, if he did not carry us safe into the Port. The poor *Spaniard* was terribly frighten'd, and said, he would do all that lay in his Power, but that he could not help their firing at us from the Batteries.

At length, our Captain told the Captain of the *Hamburgh* Ship, that if he would send him off two Pipes of Wine and three or four Puncheons of Water he should have the Pilot, and go into the Port; which he might do with a great deal of Safety, as his Country and the *Spaniards* were not at War. This the *Hamburgh* Captain readily agreed to, took the Pilot, and went in the same Day. When I found that the *Hamburgh* Captain was going to bring us off some Wine, I gave his Mate Three-Shillings and an Iron-bound Cag, which held three Gallons, to buy me as much Wine as that would purchase. This, as you will find hereafter, prov'd of great Service to me. We lay to all Night, without any Thing material happening.

The Eighth of *September*, early in the Morning, we lay within Sight of the Port, expecting the *Hamburgh* Captain to come off with the Wine; but he not coming, about Eight o'Clock we stood nigher in. We fir'd

D

a Gun

38 *The Life and Adventures of*

a Gun to the Leeward, but there was no Sign of his Boat's coming.

About Noon we saw Abundance of Fish about our Ship; and, it being calm, all our Men that had Lines went a Fishing. Our Captain harpoon'd a fine Dolphin, from our Sprissel-Yard-Arm.

About Four o'Clock in the Afternoon we fir'd another Gun to the Leeward, to try if the Boat belonging to the *Hamburg* Ship would come off; but at last we found they had no Design to come at all, and therefore it was thought needless to wait any longer for him.

About Six o'Clock in the Evening we stood under an easy Sail, off Shore, for about two Hours; then brought to, and lay all Night.

The Ninth of *September*, very early in the Morning, we stood in nearer the Shore, and thought we saw five small Vessels coming out of Port *Oratavia*, which we took to be the *St. Elme*, and four other small Vessels. We got ready to fight them; but, when the Sun rose higher, we found they were only five white Houses, which stood just upon the Shore.

About Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon we hoisted out our Boat, and the Captain order'd our Master to take six or seven Men with him, and to sound with our Line along Shore as near as we could. Accordingly the Master order'd in the Boat's Crew, of which I was one. We were eight in Number, *viz.* seven besides the Master.

About

JAMES WYATT. 39

About Eleven o'Clock we put off from the Ship. We took with us our Deep-Sea-Line and our Hand-Line; and, all being well arm'd, row'd towards the Shore, keeping the Lead going all the Way. We could find no Bottom with our Hand-Line till we came within a Cable's Length of the Shore; then we row'd cross the Bay till we came within Musquet-Shot of the Privateer which lay there, and could see the *Spaniards* very plain on the Shore. We hoisted *Swedish* Colours, fir'd a Musquet, and row'd away as fast as possible towards our Ship.

The *Spaniards* all the while we were coming towards them, never offer'd to a fire a Gun, for they imagin'd we were coming ashore; but when they found we put our Boat about, and intended to come no nearer to the Shore, they fir'd upon us from the Castle, the two Batteries, and the Privateer, all at once. Their first Fire went all over us; but their second came within two Boats Length of us; and one Ball came so nigh the Stern, that it throw'd the Water all over us.

We kept rowing for our Lives, till we thought we were out of Danger; then we lay upon our Oars, and threw our Deep-Sea-Line over board, to try if we could find any Bottom, but found none. When we had haul'd in the Line, the Master order'd me to sound *BRITONS strike home*, which I did: But while I was sounding, a Ball came from the Castle and graz'd in the Water about fifty Yards astern of us. It rose again, and came in

40 *The Life and Adventures of*

at the Stern of the Boat, between the Master and myself. We being all in our Shirts, it took off the Belly of mine, but did me no other Damage. It shot off the Sleeve of one *Thomas Pennyston*, whose Mother kept a Poulterer's Shop at *Kensington*; and took off the Leg and Thigh of another Man, who row'd at the Bow-Oar. He liv'd about two Hours after we got on board; and then expir'd. The Ball went through the Bow of our Boat, about three Inches above Water.

As soon as we got on board, we hoisted in our Boat, and acquainted the Captain with the Strength of the Place; who, thinking it too strong for us, order'd us to set Sail, and stand away for the Island of *Palma*, which is another of the *Canary* Islands.

The Tenth of *September*, in the Morning, we were near the Island of *Palma*, where we saw two Vessels making towards the Island of *Teneriffe*. We gave them Chace; but they being a great Way ahead, and having a fair Wind, we left of the Chace about Four o'Clock in the Afternoon, and stood away to the Westward of *Teneriffe*. Nothing material happen'd the Remainder of the Day, and at Night we lay to.

The Eleventh of *September*, early in the Morning, we saw a little Bay or Creek, to the Westward of the Island. We stood in very near it, and they began to fire at us from a small Battery of three Guns. We fir'd several Shot at them; but, as I afterwards found, none
of

JAMES WYATT. 41

of them did the *Spaniards* any Damage. As to theirs, they fell far short of us.

At about a Mile from the Shore, as we then imagin'd, we saw a large House, which we took to be the Castle, because they kept continually firing at us, though I believe the Shot from thence never reach'd the Water.

We kept off and on all that Day, in Expectation of picking up some of their small Craft to burn, our Fuel being near exhausted, not having above enough to boil our Provisions for three or four Days, but we met with nothing.

The Twelfth of *September*, early in the Morning, we were close under the Island of *Gomera* (which is another of the *Canary* Islands) and within about two Leagues of the Town. Our Captain propos'd going ashore with two of our Boats to get Water, and to hoist a Flag of Truce; but when we came within Half a League of the Shore, they began to fire at us from a small Battery of five Guns, which lay on the Point of a Rock. We exchange'd a great many Shot with them, and could see our Balls strike against the Rock, but theirs did not reach us.

While we were firing at each other, we saw a Vessel run out from under a Point of Land that lay about a League to the Northward of us, and endeavour'd to stretch over to the Island of *Teneriffe*, which is another of the *Canary* Islands. As soon as we saw her, we made all the sail we could towards her, she being then about a League to the Windward of us. She
put

40 *The Life and Adventures of*

put about, and stood close upon a Wind. We chac'd her for several Hours; she endeavouring, as we imagin'd, to go round the West Part of *Gomera*, but the Wind being then N. W. she was not able to weather the Point, but run in, and came to an Anchor within Half a Cable's Length of the Shore.

As she was a Bark of above sixty Tons Burthen, we were afraid to go in with our Ship, lest there might be any sunken Rocks near Shore; so the Captain order'd our Yawl to be hoisted out, and our Master to chuse out his Boat's Crew, and to go up to her with all the Precaution that might be; and, if we succeeded, to bring her off.

As there was no Battery at that Part of the Island where the Bark lay at Anchor, we mann'd the Yawl with but eleven Hands, including the Officers; who were, Mr. *James Timcutb*, Master, Mr. *Warren*, second Lieutenant; and Mr. *James Parry*, Master at Arms. He was formerly Organist of *Ross*, in *Hirefordshire*, which I have before-mention'd.

The Vessel we had chac'd, and which we were now going after, was a *Spanish* Barcolongo. She came from the Island of *Palma*, and was going to the Island of *Teneriffe*, laden with Sugar and Brandy, to put on board a Galleon that lay at *Santa Cruz*, and is the same that we were going to cut out of the Bay, when we were in Company with the *Hamburgh* Ship, Captain *Hawes*, Commander, as has been before related.

There

JAMES WYATT. 43

There running a strong Current, and the Wind being just in our Teeth, we were not able to row the Boat ahead with five Oars, so made directly towards the Shore, and row'd along Side close under the Land, the Current not running so strong there.

We were three Hours after we left the Ship before we got within Musquet-Shot of the Bark. Our Master ask'd us, if we were all willing to board her. We answer'd, one and all, we were. We saw twelve Men ashore, and made directly towards them. Our Master said, my Boys, the Bark's our own, for these Men belong'd to her, but have left her; let us give them one Volley, and then board the Bark. We had two Brass Blunderbusses, mounted on Swivels, in the Bow of our Boat. Our Master stepp'd forward to one of them himself, and order'd me to the other. He bid me take the best Aim I could, and told me he would do the same. We had no sooner discharg'd the Blunderbusses, but two or three Hundred Men came from behind the Rocks. We had been so long getting to the Bark, that the Men belonging to her, unknown to us, had got out of her, gone up the Country, and brought these People to their Assistance.

Our Blunderbusses being discharg'd, the Men from behind the Rocks kept a constant Fire at us; and, the very first Fire, our Master receiv'd a Ball just above his Right Eye, and another went almost through my Right Shoulder. We row'd directly to the Bark: The Lieutenant, myself, and four more, leapt into her,

44 *The Life and Adventures of*

her, and those that were in the Boat handed in our Arms.

As soon as we were in the Bark, our Lieutenant order'd one of our Men to take a Pole-Axe and cut the Cable, saying she would drive off. I told him, if the Cable was cut she would certainly drive ashore, for she was then almost upon the Breakers. He seem'd a little angry at what I said; though had my Advice been follow'd, it had been better for us all: For, as soon as the Cable was cut, she turn'd Broadside to the Sea, and in a few Minutes after, struck ashore against the Rocks.

By the Bark's swinging round, our Boat was expos'd to the Fire of the Enemy; upon which Mr. *Parry*, our Master at Arms, order'd the three Men in the Boat to row off. We call'd after them, but they did not regard us. In less than a Minute I saw Mr. *Parry* drop to the Bottom of the Boat; this I then thought he had done to avoid the Enemy's Shot, which was continually firing at them, but have since heard he was that Moment shot through the Heart.

While the *Spaniards* were firing at our Boat, we that were in the Bark kept firing at them. They did not fire at us till the Boat was got out of their Reach, and then they kept a constant Fire at us. We fir'd at them as fast as possible, and threw all our Hand-Grana'es ashore, which did some Execution among those that lay on the Side of the Rock.

Our Lieutenant being shot, and our Powder almost exhausted, we laid down our Arms;

JAMES WYATT. 45

to which at first I objected, saying, we had better die like Men, for that they would certainly kill us when they came on board : But they still insisting thereon, at length I agreed to it. They laid down their Arms, but I still kept the Blunderbuss in my Hand, being willing to hear what Conditions they would offer.

As Part of the Stern of the Bark was now broke off, by its beating against the Rocks, and was drove between us and the Shore, it was easy for our Enemies to jump from the Rocks upon that, and from that to the other Part where we were.

As soon as the *Spaniards* saw our-Men had laid down their Arms, they came on board us. The first Man they saw was our Lieutenant ; who, though he was dead, they began to cut in a very cruel Manner. The next Man they came to was one *William Knock*, who they butcher'd in a most barbarous Manner, several of them cutting him with their long Hooks at once, though he cry'd out for Mercy all the Time. In the same inhuman Manner they serv'd all in the Bark, but myself.

Being in the Bow of the Bark, seeing their Cruelty to our Men, and expecting the same Fate every Moment, I took the Blunderbuss which I had in one Hand, and laid it on a Pease Cask that stood near me, being unable to hold it high enough to fire, as the Ball remain'd still in my Right Shoulder. When I saw them coming towards me, I rais'd it up with all my Might, as though I was going to
fire

46 *The Life and Adventures of*

fire it at them, upon which they all run to the other Part of the Bark, and from thence leapt ashore.

At that very Instant a great Sea came in, and turn'd the Bark on one side, with her Keel towards the Shore. This gave me an Opportunity of pulling off my Cloaths and jumping into the Water, in order to swim to our Ship. I swam a considerable Way before they saw me. As soon as they saw me they began to fire at me from every Side. I was inform'd, after I was taken Prisoner, that they fir'd above three Hundred Shot at me, though they wounded me but in nine Places, *viz.* five small-Shot lodg'd between my Shoulders, three in the Poll of my Neck, and one Ball graz'd on my Left Shoulder; besides the Ball which I had before receiv'd in my Right Shoulder, and had almost gone through it.

I kept on swimming till I was out of the Reach of any of their Balls; and, I doubt not but I should have been able to have swam to our own Ship, had not the *Spaniards* launch'd their Boat (which before was haul'd up between the Rocks) and came after me. They row'd to me as fast as they could. As soon as they came near me, one of the Men who stood in the Bow of the Boat, and had a Half-pike in his Hand, pointed towards me and said, in the *Spanish* Language, *Down, down, you English Dog.* As I did not then understand *Spanish*, I knew not what he meant; but, by his repeating the Words again, and pointing to the Water, I imagin'd it was for me to dive, which

JAMES WYATT. 47

which accordingly I did, and came up on the other Side of the Boat.

As soon as I came up again, he repeated the same Words, and pointed to the Water as before ; but I was resolv'd not to dive any more, chusing rather to be kill'd by them, then to drown myself.

Seeing I did not dive as I was commanded, they talk'd among themselves a small Time, and then beckon'd me to swim to the Boat ; which, as they lay upon their Oars while they were discoursing together, was driven by the Current a pretty Way from me.

When they found I did not come to them, they row'd to me, and pull'd me into the Boat. As I stood upright in the Boat, one of the *Spaniards*, who I found afterwards was the Mate of the Bark, struck me a Blow on the Breast with such Violence, that it beat me Backwards, and I fell to the Bottom of the Boat, after which they row'd ashore.

When they came ashore, they haul'd me out of the Boat as though I had been a Dog ; which I did not regard at that Time, being very weak and faint with Swimming and the Loss of Blood.

On their bringing me ashore, the enraged Multitude crowded round me, and carried me a little Way from the Place where they landed me ; they then plac'd me against a Rock to shoot me, and threaten'd to run me through with a Half-pike if I offer'd to stir.

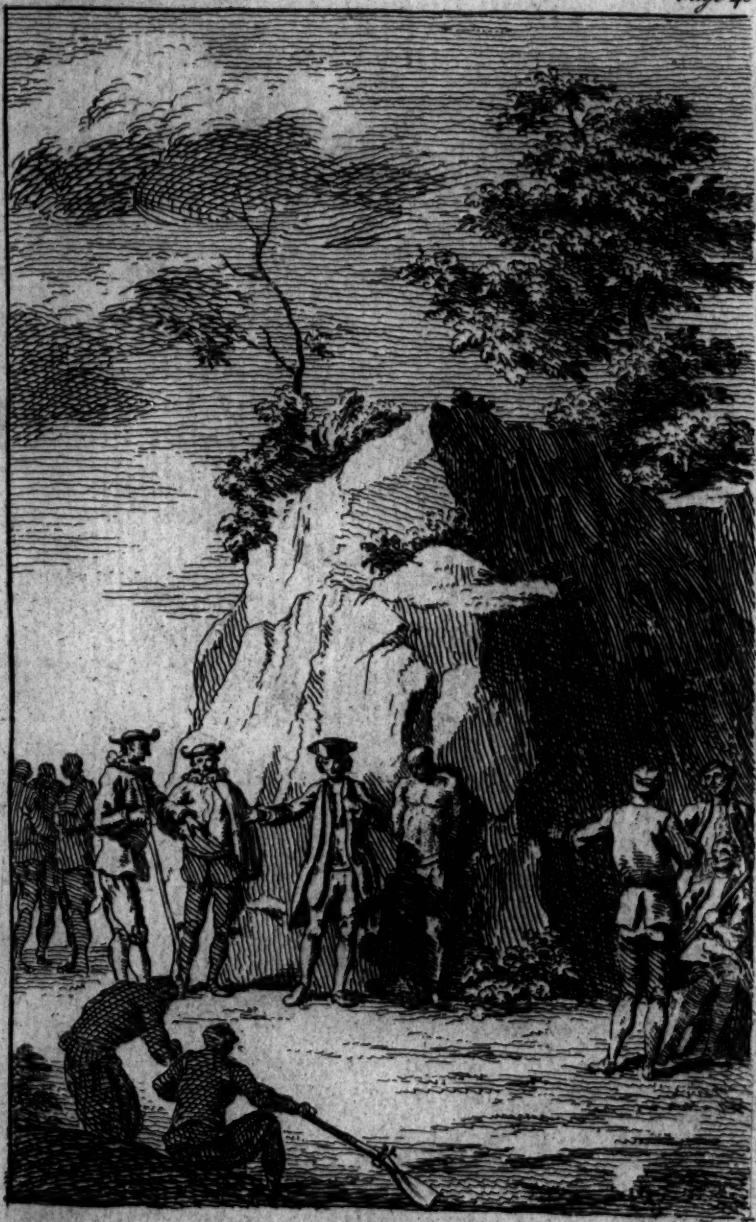
While I was plac'd against the Rock, and expecting Death every Moment, I saw a Gentleman

48 *The Life and Adventures of*

tleman expostulating with the Mob, and endeavouring to prevail with them to spare my Life. After a small Time he came directly to me, and said in *English*, Countryman don't be afraid; they want to kill you, but they shall not. He then turn'd his Back to me, stood close before me, open'd his Breast, and said if they shot me, they should shoot him likewise.

The Multitude being a little appeas'd by this surprizing Act of Humanity, my Deliverer took that Opportunity to plead in my Behalf. He told them, that if they had kill'd me while we were in a State of War with each other, they would then have been excusable both in the Sight of God and Man, because it was by Way of Self-defence; but that now I was unarm'd, and incapable of doing them any Prejudice, if they dar'd to kill me, my Blood would surely be requir'd at their Hands, and God would certainly punish them for it hereafter. He said, that at most, according to the Law of Nations, I was but a Prisoner of War; that, as I had made a brave Defence, I ought to be esteem'd for my Valour; and, as I was dangerously wounded, Humanity and the Religion they profess'd, oblig'd them to dress my Wounds, and use all possible Means for my Recovery.

These, and many other Arguments, this Gentleman us'd, as I was afterwards inform'd, in order to prevail with the Multitude to spare my Life. As he spoke to them in *Spanish*, I knew not what he said, but could perceive he was



*The Author set against a Rock to be shot by the Spaniards, & the kind
Stranger standing before him to prevent their doing it.*

w
at

m
th
C
ou
B
(
g
Se
F
dr
B

ce
m
th
w
(
k
L
an
C
af
th

er
w
A
ne
M
b
m

JAMES WYATT. 49

was very pressing with them in my Favour, and at length the Mob was entirely appeas'd.

As soon as they had consented to spare my Life, he took me along with him behind the Rocks, where he had put his Chest of Cloaths, &c. for Security, as soon as he saw our Men coming in the Boat to attack their Bark. As I had nothing on but my Trowzers (in the Pocket of which I had my Journal) he gave me a Black Coat, and some other Things. Seeing I was very weak and faint, he took a Flask of Wine out of his Chest, and bid me drink some of it. He afterwards got some Brandy to wash my Wounds.

When they went to wash my Wounds, perceiving the Blood was stagnated, an old *Spaniard* came and suck'd them, which made them bleed afresh. They then wash'd them with Flannels dipt in Brandy. My Deliverer (for that is the Name I shall always call the kind Stranger that sav'd my Life) was an *Irish* Gentleman, his Name was *William Ryan*, and was going a Passenger in the Bark to *Santa Cruz*, in the Island of *Teneriffe*. This I was afterwards inform'd of, when I was a Prisoner in the *Canary* Islands.

Thus was I deliver'd from the Hands of an enrag'd Multitude by a Stranger, at a Time when Death appear'd to me with all its Horrors! At a Time when I least expected a Deliverer near, and was beseeching the Almighty to have Mercy on my Soul. *O may God be merciful to him in Time of Need, for the Good he did unto me in that Day.*

E

As

50 *The Life and Adventures of*

As soon as my Wounds were dress'd, I was conducted to a Village about two Miles off, where I was well refresh'd with Mear, Grapes, &c. At this Village I got a Pair of Shoes and a Hat; and, though it was Night, yet they had me to *Gomera*, which is about five Leagues distant, four Men being appointed to conduct me along, one of which had been shot in the Thigh in our Engagement with them. This wounded Man was kinder to me than all the rest, frequently assisting me in getting up the steep Part of the Hill, I being very sick and faint for some Time, having lost a great Quantity of Blood.

On the Thirteenth of *September*, about Four o'Clock in the Morning, we got to *Gomera*. I was carried to the House of the Deputy-Governor; and, a Linguist being sent for, he examin'd me concerning the Force of our Ship, &c. Upon my acquainting the Governor with the Pain I was in, on Account of my Wounds, and that I had a Ball still in my Shoulder, he sent for a Man to cut it out. The Man that came to perform the Operation was a Barber. He had no Instrument but a Razor, with which he cut my Flesh cross and cross till he saw the Ball; he then took a Nail, bent it, and hook'd out the Ball therewith. After he had got out the Ball, he wash'd the Wound with Brandy, as the others had done before, and bound it up. The Ball went eight Inches through the fleshy Part of my Shoulder, and lodg'd against the Bone.

After

JAMES WYATT. 51

After my Wounds were dress'd, and I had receiv'd some Refreshment, I was sent in a Boat with ten Men to the Island of *Teneriffe*, which is about twelve Leagues distant from *Gomera*.

About Eight o'Clock at Night we landed at the little Bay or Creek before-mention'd, where the *Spaniards* have a Battery of three Guns. I was immediately carried to the Count of *Gomera's* House; who, as I was inform'd, was the Head-Governor. He lives at a little Villiage, call'd *Adaba*.

As the Linguist, myself, and four others, (who were my Guards) were going to the Count of *Gomera's* House, the Linguist and I were talking about the Cries of *London*. When we were got near the House, we were call'd to by the Governor's Guards, who bid us stand, and demanded who we were. The Linguist answer'd, we were *Spaniards*, and came from *Gomera*. They then ask'd, why we talk'd *English*. He answer'd, it was a Prisoner he was talking to, which they had brought from *Gomera* to be examin'd by the Governor: Upon which they bid us stay a little till they had acquainted the Governor therewith.

The Centinel that went to the Governor, return'd in less than a Quarter of an Hour. He brought six Men with him, and we were order'd to go to the Governor along with them. As soon as we came to his House, I was order'd into a large Hall. There were present the Governor, his Mother, some Fryars, and some other Gentlemen. He ex-

52 *The Life and Adventures of*

amin'd me concerning the Force of our Ship, &c.

After Examination I was order'd in another Room, and the Servants brought me Plenty of Provision. I eat heartily, and was very well refresh'd; after which the Governor's Mother, hearing how much I was wounded, came to see me, and brought a Surgeon along with her. He dress'd my Wounds, and the old Lady sent me three Holland Shirts, and two Handkerchiefs to sling my Arm in, instead of the Flannels they were slung in before. She likewise order'd the Servants to let me have a good Bed, and every Thing necessary.

The Fourteenth of *September*, in the Morning, when the old Lady got up, she sent for me, and order'd the Linguist to come along with me. She ask'd me concerning my Health, and some other Questions. She then gave me a Pair of Silk Stockings, a Black Silk Waistcoat, a Hat, and a Dollar in Money. The Remainder of the Day I spent in viewing of the House, and the Guns that were planted thereon, which were twelve in Number, the largest not exceeding three Pounds. I saw also a Silver Trumpet, which I desir'd the Servants to let me have down, to see if I could sound it; but, in blowing the Trumpet, my Wounds bled afresh, for which the old Lady was very angry with the Servants.

The Count of *Gomera* is said to have come of a very ancient and noble Family; and, as I was inform'd, keeps above an Hundred Servants.

JAMES WYATT. 53

vants. He was a little Man, was about twenty-four Years of Age, and seem'd very good-natur'd.

The Fifteenth of *September*, the Governor sent for me, to know if I was able to perform the Journey to *Santa Cruz*, which was near fifty Miles by Land, for he was oblig'd to send me there to be examin'd by the General. I told him, I could not possibly walk it, not being able to move my Hands in going up Hill. He told me, I should have a Mule, and a Man to hold it all the Way, which I accordingly had.

The Sixteenth of *September*, about Three o'Clock in the Afternoon, I set out for *Santa Cruz*, being guarded by three Men, and another led the Mule. The old Lady took Care to provide me with every Thing necessary, and when I went away, she gave me Two Dollars in Money, and the Governor gave me One.

We travell'd till between Ten and Eleven at Night. We then arriv'd at a little Village about fifteen Miles from *Adaba*, which was all the Way up Hill; and, in some Places, very dangerous; the Way being very narrow, and dreadful Precipices to tumble down, if we had fallen.

Here we refresh'd ourselves, after which we went to Bed about four Hours. I had but little Sleep, there being several Fryars where we lay; and, as one of them could speak *English*, he was almost continually asking me Questions, and talking to me. The Country
People

54 *The Life and Adventures of*

People likewise flock'd round me, as though they had never seen a Prisoner before; and, hearing I was much wounded, several of them gave me Money.

The Seventeenth of *September*, about Three o'Clock in the Morning, we set out again for *Santa Cruz*. About five Hours after we pass'd by the Pike of *Teneriffe*, which is a Mountain prodigiously high, but I find Travellers differ very much with regard to its Height: However I shall have Occasion to speak more of it hereafter.

About Nine o'Clock in the Morning, we began to go down Hill; and, about Twelve at Noon, we stopp'd at a Village to refresh ourselves.

About Two o'Clock in the Afternoon we got to a Village, call'd the *Evelia*, about a Mile from Port *Oratavia*. It is a very pleasant Place, being situated among the Vineyards, and is well supply'd with Water.

At Four o'Clock we set out for *Santa Cruz*, where we arriv'd about Seven at Night.

As soon as I came to *Santa Cruz*, I was had before the General, and examin'd by him much after the same Manner that I was before examin'd by the Count of *Gomera*. While I was under Examination, a great many *Irish* Gentlemen came to see me, they hearing from the *Spaniards* that an *Englisman* had been taken Prisoner. They were very kind to me, and every one gave me Money, more or less; so that while I was in the General's House, I had Eight Dollars given me.

After

JAMES WYATT. 55

After the General had done examining me, I was had away to the Castle. When I was there, Dr. *Ross*, an *English* Prisoner, came to see me, and look'd at my Wounds; but, having nothing of his own to dress them, he went to a Doctor, and told him what to dress them with. He afterwards prov'd a very good Friend to me.

I lay all this Night in the Castle, but could get very little Sleep, my Wounds being very painful to me, and my Lodging not very extraordinary.

The Eighteenth of *September*, in the Morning, the Serjeant came to me, and told me I must go with him to the *Lagoon*, where the *English* Prisoners were kept. Accordingly I went, after I had got a little Refreshment. The Serjeant was mounted on an *Ass*, but I walk'd it, though I was in great Torture all the Way. I went.

The *Lagoon* is the chief Town on this Island, and is about four Miles up the Hills from *Santa Cruz*. It is in a Plain, with a Ridge of Hills all round it: But I shall have Occasion to give a particular Description of it hereafter.

When I came to the *Lagoon* I was put a Prisoner into the Castle. There was twenty-five Prisoners in the Castle besides myself. They were *English*, and belong'd to a Ship, commanded by Capt. *Wilson*; who, with his Mate (one Mr. *Hays*) were Prisoners likewise.

This

56 *The Life and Adventures of*

This Day, being the Feast of St. *Michael*, according to the New Stile, I saw a Proceſſion, which was the firſt of the Kind I had ever ſeen. They carried a large Effigy of St. *Michael* fighting with the Dragon. The Dragon was plac'd under his Feet, in Token of his Victory. The Priests and Fryars were all bare headed, and the Hoſt was carried before them, under a fine Canopy of Crimſon Velvet trim'd with Gold. It was ſupported by Priests, or thoſe I took to be ſuch, in the Colours of their ſeveral Orders.

After this Proceſſion had paſſ'd by I went among my Fellow-Prisoners. We ſoon became acquainted with each other, and they were very kind to me, aſſiſting me in whatever lay in their Power. In the Evening my Wounds gave me a great deal of Pain; and, when I went to Bed, I could get no Reſt, being very feveriſh and uneaſy.

The next Morning I was very ſick indeed. My Sickneſs was occaſion'd by the drying up of my Wounds; which became at laſt ſo very offenſive, for want of dreſſing, that none of my Fellow-Prisoners could ſtay long near me.

Mr. *Hays* (who in particular was very kind to me during my Illneſs) ſeeing the deplorable Condition I was in, bought me a Hammock, as I might lie more at Eaſe in that than in a Bed, and alſo gave me ſuch other Aſſiſtance as my Neceſſities requir'd, and he was in a Capacity of affording.

I continu'd for a few Days very ill, during which Time there were ſeveral Gentlemen
came

came to see me, having heard from the *Spaniards* who took me Prisoner the surprizing Manner of my Deliverance, &c. some of which, seeing the miserable Circumstances I was in, sent a *French* Doctor to dress my Wounds. He was very careful of me, dress'd them with a great deal of Tenderness, and in a short Time I grew very well.

While I was a Prisoner here, Captain *Haws* (the Captain of the *Hamburg* Ship I have so often mention'd) came to see me. I had given his Mate an Iron-bound Cag and a Trifle of Money, in order to buy me some Wine of the *Spaniards*, which I have mention'd before. I acquainted Captain *Haws* with it, and he kindly gave me Two Dollars in return for it. Mr. *Ryan*, the Gentleman who sav'd me from being shot, came also to see me. I gave him a great many Thanks for all his Kindness to me, and told him if it ever lay in my Power I would make him Amends. He assur'd me he neither expected or desir'd any Return; that what he had done for me was owing to the Love he had for his Country; and that he could not see any of his Countrymen thus inhumanely used, without bearing a Part in their Distress, and endeavouring to deliver them out of it. After a short Stay, he gave me something to relieve me, and then very affectionately took his Leave.

In a few Days I was pretty well recover'd, so as to be able to do any Thing for myself, without being troublesome to my Fellow-prisoners. My Wounds began to heal apace; and,

58 *The Life and Adventures of*

and, being kept clean, the offensive Smell was entirely gone, and my Fellow-Sufferers and I endeavour'd to render each others Circumstances as easy as possible.

During my Confinement here, I frequently look'd over my Journal, and made such Alterations and Additions as I judg'd necessary: And though I afterwards lost it, when I was taken Prisoner by the *Moors* (as has already been mention'd) yet the frequent reading thereof, when I was a Prisoner here, has so grounded it in my Memory, that I believe I have omitted very few Things that were worthy Notice.

One Day a very fortunate Accident happen'd; which, in the End, made me as serviceable to my Fellow-Prisoners, as they had been to me. It was as follows: A Man coming into the Castle with a Drum slung at his Back, I desir'd he would let me try if I could beat, which he readily consented to.

As I had learnt to beat on that Instrument when I was in *England*, I took the Drum-Sticks, brac'd the Drum, and beat a March pretty roundly. The Man was very much surpriz'd to hear me beat, and told me he never in his Life heard one beat so well; though had I beat before several Persons in *England*, they would have laugh'd as much at it, as I did afterwards at the Beating of the Man that brought in the Drum.

Though my Performances on this Instrument were but very indifferent, yet they prov'd the utmost Service to us all in the C^{ase}

JAMES WYATT. 59

stances we were then in; for the Man who brought in the Drum, when I had done beating, went and acquainted a Gentleman who was exceeding fond of hearing a Drum, that he had found out one of the best Performers on that Instrument in the World.

This, you may be sure, was sufficient to excite the Curiosity of this Gentleman to see me: Accordingly, the next Day he came, attended by a Servant, who brought a Drum. As soon as he saw me, he told me what the Man had said, and desir'd I would beat a little before him. I took the Drum, brac'd it, and beat, the best I could, for the Space of eight or ten Minutes.

When I had done beating, he put his Hand in his Pocket, and gave me Half a Dollar. He then called the Turnkey, and desir'd him to let me go along with him to his House, telling him he would be answerable for my coming again. The Turnkey consented, and I went along with this Gentleman, who had me to several others of his Acquaintance. I beat at every House I went, and gain'd a great deal of Applause, and some Money; so that when I went to the Castle at Night, I carried Three Dollars with me.

This Money was of very great Service to me and my Fellow-Prisoners, as we were in want even of the Necessaries of Life, our Allowance being but very trifling. As they had been very serviceable to me in my Sickness, I thought I was bound in Duty to assist them, and therefore freely let them partake of what I got, and
was

60 *The Life and Adventures of*

was heartily glad I had it in my Power to help them.

The Gentleman that came to hear me beat the Drum in the Castle was exceeding kind to me, frequently having me to beat before Gentlemen of his Acquaintance, who always gave me something for my Trouble: Nor did his Kindness stop here, for at length he desir'd the Turnkey to let me go and come when I would, telling him he would be answerable for my coming again.

This he did at my Request, and on my representing to him the Hardships we underwent in our Confinement for want of Necessaries, and how much a Trifle (which it was probable I might have given me for drumming) would contribute to comfort and support us. He likewise lent me a Drum.

After I had obtain'd Leave to go in and out of the Castle when I pleas'd, I us'd to go from House to House and beat on the Drum, so that there was scarce a Day pass'd but I got something.

When I had been twenty - eight Days a Prisoner in the Castle, a Serjeant came to me, and told me I must go before the General. I went with him directly to *Santa Cruz*, taking nothing with me but the Cloaths on my Back, leaving the rest of my Things with my Fellow-Prisoners. My Dress consisted of a Pair of Shoes, a Pair of Trowzers, a Shirt, an old Frock, and a Hat.

As soon as we came to *Santa Cruz*, I was had before the General. He told me, he heard I could

JAMES WYATT. 61

I could beat very well on the Drum. I made him Answer, that it was true I could beat on the Drum, but not so well as was generally reported. He then ask'd me if I could play on any other Musick. I told him yes, I could sound a Trumpet much better than I could beat a Drum. While the General was asking me Questions, a Man came in with a Drum. He bid me take it, and beat a little thereon. Accordingly I took it, brac'd it, and beat thereon for the Space of two or three Minutes.

When I had done beating, I was ask'd if I would teach a Gentleman's little Black Boy to beat on the Drum. Upon my saying I would, the Gentleman (who was called Don *Matthias Carter*, and who was one of the chief Gentlemen on the Island) told the General that he would be answerable for my coming whenever I was wanted, and desir'd him to let me go along with him. The General consented, and I went with him to his House. While I was refreshing myself, he went and bought two Drums, one for me, and the other for the Black Boy. He told me, he did not desire me to teach the Boy for nothing, for that he would fully satisfy me for my Trouble.

When I had brac'd the Drums, and given the Boy a few Instructions, I got my Supper, and went to the Castle to lye, the Gentleman having promis'd the General that I should go there every Night by Seven or Eight o'Clock at the farthest. My Lodging here was very bad, having only two Blankets which were

62 *The Life and Adventures of*

given me to lye on; and, what was yet worse, I was sadly pester'd with Fleas and Bugs, so that I could get but very little Sleep.

The next Morning I went to Don *Mathias Carter's* House again. As soon as I went, he took me with him, and bought me a very handsome new Suit of Cloaths, and every Thing answerable to it. When he had cloath'd me, he put his Hand in his Pocket and gave me some Money, and bid me ask him for more when that was gone.

As soon as Dinner was over, I took the Drums, brac'd them, and gave the Boy some farther Instructions. While I was teaching the Lad, his Master came in. He ask'd me how the Boy went on, and whether I thought he would be capable of learning. I told him he would; that he came on apace; and that I did not doubt but he would beat as well as myself in three or four Months Time.

This pleas'd him very much, and he ask'd me if I wanted any Money. I told him no; upon which he bid me be sure to ask him for some, when I wanted. I told him I had one Favour to beg of him, which I hop'd he would not refuse. He ask'd me what it was. I reply'd, my Lodging at the Castle being very bad, and being so sadly pester'd with Fleas and Bugs that I could get no Rest, I should be glad if he would be pleas'd to desire the General to permit me to lodge else-where. He told me he would, and accordingly obtain'd Leave of the General for me to lye in his House.

During

JAMES WYATT. 63

During the Time of my teaching the Boy on the Drum, I sometimes saw some of my Fellow - Prisoners. They had obtain'd Leave of the Turnkey to come to see me, on their promising to return again as soon as possible. I acquainted Don *Matthias Carter* with it, and he gave me Money to give them. This he did several Times, and they never came to see me but I gave them whatever I could spare ; knowing, by woeful Experience, they star'd very hard in the Castle at the *Lagoon*, where they were kept Prisoners.

As I taught the Lad but a few Hours in a Day, his Master told me I might go and see the Town, or walk where I pleas'd, when I had done teaching, provided I came to his House by Seven or Eight o'Clock at Night to lodge, which he desir'd I would not exceed. He likewise desir'd that I would be careful not to give Offence to any Person, and if any one affronted me to let him know it, and he would see I had Justice done me : All which I punctually observ'd ; and, as he heard no Complaints either Way, he was very well pleas'd.

As I had now an Opportunity of walking about daily, I went and saw the Town, and Places adjacent : But as I had hereafter the Liberty of going where I pleas'd in any of the *Canary Islands* (which Liberty I obtain'd by an Accident that will be hereafter related) I shall not mention any Thing concerning them now ; but shall give the best Description I can of them all, just before the Account of my
F 2
quitting

64 *The Life and Adventures of*

quitting the Island, and making my Escape from the *Spaniards*.

In about four Months I had taught the Boy to beat on the Drum full as well as myself; during which Time I continu'd at his Master's House, and had every Thing provided for me. He frequently gave me Money for myself, and also some to give to my Fellow-Prisoners, which I carried to them in the Castle at the *Lagoon*, and likewise bought them what I thought they wanted, and took with me.

When I had taught the Boy as much as I could, I acquainted his Master with it. He return'd me a great many Thanks, and desir'd me to continue at his House during my being a Prisoner on the Island. He then gave me some Money, and bid me always ask him for what I wanted, and he would take care I should have it.

At length being weary of an idle Life, I began to think of doing something to employ myself. As I had serv'd my Time to a Dyer and Woolcomber, I thought I would follow the Dying Part of my Business, as all Sorts of Dyes were here very plentiful. Accordingly I acquainted Don *Matbias Carter* with my Intention. He commended me for it very much, told me I should have what Dyes I wanted, and gave me a large Kettle to boil them in. He likewise let me have one of his empty Houses to dye in.

The chief Dye I us'd was Black, which the *Spaniards* much delight in. They us'd to bring me their Cloaks and Coats to dye, when they

JAMES WYATT. 65

they were grown rusty. I dy'd and press'd them in the best Manner I could; and, though they were not near so well done as they are in *England*, yet I had no Fault found with my Work.

Just as I had got into a little Business, the House which Don *Mathias Carter* was so kind to let me Dye in was lett, and I was oblig'd to leave it. My removing so soon, put me to some Difficulty at first; but I presently overcame it, and in a little Time had more Business than I could get done.

As I was walking in the Town, soon after I left the House, I met Dr. *Ross*, and acquainted him with what had happen'd. He told me the General had given him Leave to practice Physick; and therefore if I would come and put up his Things, he would satisfy me for my Trouble. I assur'd him I would serve him in any Thing that lay in my Power, and that I would come to his House the next Morning.

I accordingly went at the Time promis'd, and found him at Home. He had borrow'd me some Tools of a Carpenter, and had got every Thing ready to go on with. I work'd very hard, and in a small Time had fitted his House up in a neat Manner. After I had perform'd the Carpenter's Part, I got Paint and Brushes, and painted the House according to his Directions.

When I had finish'd the House, I dug up the Garden; after which I did what was wanting therein. I likewise made a pail'd Gate to it,

66 *The Life and Adventures of*

it, and put Pallisades round it, which were very much admir'd by the Inhabitants, being the first of the Kind they had ever seen.

When I had finish'd my Work, he paid me very handsomely. I ask'd him whether he intended to marry and settle there. He said no, he had not any Thoughts of settling there, but intended to come to *England* the very first Opportunity; and that as to marrying there, he assur'd me he would not have the richest and most beautiful Woman on the Island.

This Gentleman had a great deal of Skill in Physick, had perform'd several wonderful Cures, and was sent for by the *Spaniards* far and near, in order to attend them in their Sickness. I have since seen him in *England*, and hear is settled somewhere in *Essex*.

After I had finish'd the House and Garden before-mention'd, another Gentleman (who had seen the Doctor's House, and lik'd the Manner of its being done) sent for me to come to him. When I came to him, he ask'd me if I was willing to fit up his House. I told him I was, and would leave it to him to give me what he thought proper when it was finish'd. He said he would have it done exactly as I had done the Doctor's, and he would pay me whatever I requir'd.

Accordingly I got every Thing ready, and set about it as fast as possible; but, while I was in the midst of my Work, a File of Musketeers came to the House, and said I must go with them. I was a little surpriz'd at their coming for me, and ask'd them if they knew

he

JAMES WYATT. 67

the Reason of my being sent for in that Manner. They told me all they knew of the Matter was, that a Sloop was come on Purpose to carry me to the *Grand Canary*, and that they were oblig'd to see me safe thither.

I told them I would go with them in a very little Time, but begg'd we might go to Don *Mathias Carter's* before I went, as I had a Favour of Importance to crave of him. This they consented to, and immediately we went to the said Gentleman's House. When we came there, I told him what had happen'd; upon which he sent for several Gentlemen of his Acquaintance, and they all gave me Letters of Recommendation. These, as you will find hereafter, prov'd of the utmost Service to me.

After I had receiv'd the Letters, I return'd them a great many Thanks, and went with the Soldiers to the Sloop. We sail'd directly for the *Grand Canary*, where we arriv'd in about eight Hours, it being about sixteen Leagues distant from *Teneriffe*.

We landed about Six o'Clock in the Evening. As soon as I got ashore, the Soldiers went all away and left me, having no Orders to see me any farther.

Here I saw an *Irish* Gentleman who knew me at *Teneriffe*. He ask'd me the Reason of my coming to the *Grand Canary*. I told him I did not know, and related what had pass'd at *Teneriffe*. He said he was very sorry for what had happen'd, hop'd I should come to
no

68 *The Life and Adventures of*

no Harm, and kindly promis'd to serve me in any Thing that lay in his Power.

Seeing I was not provided with an Afs, he order'd one of the Men that lett Affes when the Vessels came in, to let me have one to ride up to the Town, which was about three Miles distant. I return'd him Thanks for his Kindness, mounted the Afs, and rode to the Town. Just as I enter'd it, a Man took the Afs from me, who I suppose was the Owner, or one appointed by him for that Purpose.

As soon as I came into the Town, I enquir'd for a Gentleman who was a Merchant there, to whom I had a Letter of Recommendation. I presently found him out, and was very kindly receiv'd by him. I related the Manner of my being brought there, my being left by the Soldiers as soon as I landed, and shew'd him my Letters of Recommendation. He said, he imagin'd by the Proceedings, that I was put into the Inquisition; but bid me not be afraid, for those Lettters would be of Service to me; and that he, and some Gentlemen of his Acquaintance, would be my Friends. He likewise desir'd me to continue at his House, during my Stay on that Island, assuring me I should be heartily welcome.

While I was refreshing myself at this Gentleman's House, he went to some of the Officers of the Inquisition, as I was inform'd, to know whether there was any Thing laid to my Charge. He was told there was, and ask'd where I lodg'd. He reply'd, I lodg'd at his House,

JAMES WYATT. 69

House, and he would be answerable for my coming the next Day, as he had seen Letters of Recommendation from several worthy Gentlemen at *Teneriffe*, and therefore he hop'd the Charge against me was without Foundation.

Soon after he return'd Home, he told me it was as he imagin'd, for I was surely put into the Inquisition, but the Substance of the Charge he could not possibly learn, that always remaining a Secret till the Prisoner appears in Person: However, says he, I hope you will come to no Harm; for those Letters, and the Friends I can raise in your Behalf, unless the Crime laid to your Charge be very bad, will certainly clear you.

I was a little daunted when I heard I was put into the Inquisition, as I had always entertain'd very terrible Ideas of that Court; but, as I knew I had been guilty of no extraordinary Crimes, I relied on my Innocence, and the good Offices of my Friends.

Accordingly the next Day I was had to the Court of Inquisition, and pass'd a very strict Examination; after which I was dismiss'd, and the Day following examin'd again; and so on, for three Days successively. The Charge that was laid against me was, That I was a Free-Mason, &c. To this I pleaded, not Guilty, and produc'd the Letters of Recommendation, and Persons to prove that I was of sober Life and Conversation, &c.

After being several Times strictly examin'd, and finding no Cause of Guilt in me, I was acquitted: Though I found my Friends were
of

70 *The Life and Adventures of*

of very great Service to me, or I had not so soon been discharg'd ; there being an *English* Gentleman two Years a Prisoner on the same Island, who was charg'd with being a Free-Mason as well as myself, and it was not known when he would be set at Liberty. I shall give a farther Account of the Court of Inquisition, when I come to speak of the *Canary* Islands.

When I was acquitted, I begg'd that I might have the Liberty of returning to *Teneriffe* again, which was accordingly granted. I went to my Friend the Merchant, and return'd him Thanks for all the good Offices he had done me. He told me, he was very glad he had it in his Power to servè me, especially as mine was an Affair of no small Consequence.

I lodg'd at this Gentleman's House all Night, and the next Day I took my Leave of him, and went to *Teneriffe* in the same Sloop that brought me from thence. I was heartily glad when I got there, and so were all the Gentlemen that had given me Letters of Recommendation. As to my Fellow-Prisoners, when they heard the Manner of my being carried to the *Grand Canary*, they did not expect ever to see me again, and therefore my going to see them occasion'd a great deal of Joy.

The Day after I return'd to *Teneriffe*, I went on with my Work at the Gentleman's House, from which I was taken by the File of Musqueteers. I work'd extreamly hard, and in a few Days finish'd it to his Satisfaction, for which he very handsomely rewarded me.

When

JAMES WYATT. 71

When my Work was compleated, and I had receiv'd my Money, I went to see my Fellow-Prisoners at the *Lagoon*, and carried with me what Things I thought most needful for their Support. I likewise gave them some Money, that they might buy themselves a few trifling Necessaries during my Absence. Though what I gave them each Time I went was no great Matter; yet it was what I could spare, and was to them of very great Service.

A small Time after my returning to *Teneriffe*, I happen'd to be at Don *Mathias Carter's* House, when he was complaining about the Scarcity of Hats, saying, they gave a great Price for them; that the Heat of the Sun and the Dust soon made them lose their Blackness; and that there was none on the Island that could dress them.

Hearing this Gentleman say so, I told him that as I was brought up a Dyer and Wool-comber, and a Hatter liv'd within a few Doors of my Master, I fancy'd I could dress Hats pretty well, having frequently seen them done. He said if I could do that, I might get as much in a few Years as would keep me during my Life. I reply'd, if he pleas'd, I would do his first, and if he lik'd it when it was done, I would set up that Trade.

Accordingly he gave me one of his Hats to dress. I went immediately and got a Hat-Block made, dress'd the Hat, clean'd the Lace that was on it, and carried it Home the same Day. As it was the first I had ever dress'd, I took a great deal of Pains about it. When
I show'd

72 *The Life and Adventures of*

I show'd it to him, he was surpriz'd to see how well I had made it look. He told me, if I would do other Gentleman's Hats as well as I had done his, I might get an Estate in a few Years, and that he would help me to Business enough. As he was just going out when I carried it, he pull'd off the Hat he had on his Head, and put on that I had dress'd for him, in order to show it to several Gentlemen of his Acquaintance. The same Night I had two more Hats sent me to dress through his Recommendation.

The next Morning, before I got to work, I had five more sent me. This oblig'd me to have some more Blocks. Accordingly I went and had six Blocks made, of different Sizes, for which I agreed to dress the Man's Hats who made them, as long as I continu'd on the Island.

After the Blocks were made, I went and bought Brushers, and some Plush to make a Puff, or Cushion, such as the Hatters use. I likewise got a round Piece of Tin, and cut out one Quarter, with which I us'd to make a Cross on the Crown of the Hat, having seen some Hatters in *England* do the same. Being thus furnish'd with Materials for my Business, I began to think myself a compleat Tradesman.

The second Day after the Hats were sent me, I finish'd them in a neat Manner; and, when I had done, the Gentleman for whom I had dress'd the first, ask'd me what I design'd to charge for the doing them. I told him,

JAMES WYATT. 73

him, in *England*, the Price was Six-pence; but that I could afford to do them cheaper, as he had promis'd to give me Logwood. He told me Six-pence was much too cheap; that I must not dress them under Half a Dollar each; that he would give me that first, and he was sure the other Gentlemen would give the same.

Before I carried the Hats Home, I went and bought an Apron, such as Hatters wear in *England*, ty'd it on, put the Hats on my Hand, and cry'd as I went along, in the *Spanish* Language, Hats to dress, &c.

I carried them Home, and the Gentlemen lik'd them very well. They ask'd me what they came to dressing, and I told them Half a Dollar each, which they gave me very willingly. The same Day I had several Hats brought to me; and in less than a Fortnight, I had Business enough brought to me, to have kept three Men at work, besides myself.

Finding my Business encrease so fast, I took Part of a House, in which one Mr. *Darby*, a Taylor, liv'd. He was a very civil, good-natur'd Man, and we agreed extreamly well together. When I was very busy, he frequently assisted me, in putting new Linings, &c. into the Hats.

Mr. *Darby* and I us'd frequently to walk together, sometimes to one Part of the Island, and sometimes to another, in order to see the Country all round us.

It happen'd one Night that we had walk'd rather too far, so that we made it later than

G

common

74 *The Life and Adventures of*

common before we got Home. As soon as we came Home, I went to Don *Mathias Carter's* House, where I us'd to lye, in order to go to Bed; but, it being pretty late, the Servants were gone to Bed before I came. I did not care to call, for fear of disturbing their Master, so Mr. *Darby* desir'd I would go and lye with him.

Accordingly I agreed to go with him. When we came to his House, we went in; but, not having any Light, Mr. *Darby* snap'd a Pistol over a little Gunpowder in a Paper, thinking to light a Match thereby. The Pistol, unknown to us, was charg'd with Gunpowder, but no Ball. It made a great Report, which very much surpriz'd some of the Inhabitants, not knowing what could be the Meaning thereof at that Time of Night.

The Report of the Pistol likewise brought in the Officer of the Night and his Assistants, who told us we must go with him. While he was talking with us, we heard a great Cry of Fire! Fire! The Outcry of Fire made the Officer's Assistants run toward it; and the Officer told Mr. *Darby*, he must answer for firing the Pistol the next Day before the General, and then he left us likewise, and went to see where the Fire was.

Upon his leaving us, Mr. *Darby* and I ran directly towards the Fire, thinking it was at one Mr. *Davenet's*, a *Dutch* Merchant, who had always been a very good Friend to the *Englisch* Prisoners; but, when I came there, found

JAMES WYATT. 75

found it to be four or five Doors from him, at the *Portuguese* Consul's.

The Houses being here chiefly built with Pitch-Pine Wood (well known to most of our Sailors) which, though it be green, will burn like a Candle, the Fire rag'd very terrible indeed. It began at the Top of the House, in the Nursery, and one of the Consul's Children was burnt to Ashes.

By the Time I had got to the House, there were about twenty or thirty People at the Door, calling to the Family, but they could not make them hear. I desir'd them to get me an Iron Bar, a Pickaxe, or any Thing to break open the Door with, which they accordingly did.

As soon as I had got an Iron Bar, I presently broke open the Door. The Consul and his Lady were fast asleep, but I presently waked them and the rest of the Family. I work'd hard, and did all that lay in my Power to extinguish the Fire, and help them remove their Goods.

The Fire continuing to burn prodigiously fierce, soon reached the next House, which was the *French* Consul's; and, in less than an Hour, they were both burnt to the Ground.

There being a Wine-Cellar between the *French* Consul's and the General's House, which was next to that, I desired they would get all the Water they possibly could, carry it to the Top of the General's House, which was flat, and from thence throw it down on the Wine-Cellar. They did so; and, after some Time, it had the desir'd Effect.

76 *The Life and Adventures of*

There were four Pipes of Brandy, besides a great Quantity of Wine in the Cellar ; and, when they took Fire, every one run from the Top of the General's House but myself. The Fire continued to burn in a very dreadful Manner, nevertheless I kept constantly pouring Water on it ; and, though the General's House took Fire twice, yet by this Means I got it extinguish'd. After the Fire was entirely out, Mr. *Darby* and I went Home together, and went to Bed for two or three Hours, being very much fatigu'd.

The next Day I met the Officer that threaten'd to have Mr. *Darby* punish'd for snapping the Pistol, as before related. He came to me, shook me by the Hand, and said, as I had been so diligent in order to put out the Fire, and Mr. *Darby* and I liv'd together, he would never take any Notice to the General of Mr. *Darby's* Affair, and return'd him the Pistol again, which the Night before he had taken away.

A few Days afterwards the General sent for me, I went to him immediately, and he told me, as I had been so serviceable to him in putting out the Fire, and as he understood I had set up my Trade, I should be at Liberty to follow it at any of the seven Islands. He then gave me a Passport for that Purpose ; and, I believe, if I had ask'd him at that Time to let me come to *England*, he would not have refus'd me. *But the Time of my Deliverance was not yet come.*

I return'd

JAMES WYATT. 77

I return'd the General a great many Thanks for this Favour, went Home, and follow'd my Business of dressing of Hats. I continu'd in this Business near three Months, in which Time I sav'd upwards of Twenty Pounds, besides assisting my Fellow-Prisoners.

The Beginning of *June* was brought in here, the *Young Neptune*, from *London*, Capt. *Robert Winter*, Commander. He was bound to *Jamaica*, laden with Provisions, and was taken by a *Spanish Privateer* going to the *Madeiras*.

I soon became acquainted with him and his Mate; and one Day, being in Company together, he ask'd me what was the Reason of my living here, seeing I had frequent Opportunities of making my Escape, having Liberty from the General to go to any of the seven Islands. I told him, I thought of nothing so much as of my making my Escape to *England*, but as yet could see no Way of accomplishing my Design, that had the least Prospect of Success: That should I fail in attempting to make my Escape, I should thereby make all on the Island my Boes, and the Liberty I had would certainly be taken from me, and I languish out the Remainder of my Days in Prison.

After a little Pause, he reply'd, that what I had said was very reasonable; and, in an Affair of such Consequence, it was Prudence to wait till a favourable Opportunity presented itself: But, continu'd he, suppose that happy Time was now at Hand, would you be content

78 *The Life and Adventures of*

to endure a little Hardship, provided there was a Probability of escaping safe to *England*.

I told him, I fear'd nothing so much as failing in the Attempt, for the Reasons I had before given him; that as to other Hardships, such as Labour, Hunger, &c. I could endure as well as most; and that if he would explain himself to me, I would then give him a positive Answer.

At length he told me, he would let me into a Secret, provided I would promise him not to divulge it while I remain'd on the Island. Upon my promising him I would not, he told me, that himself, Mr. *Burroughs* his Mate, and four other *Englishmen*, (three of which were on board the *Papa*, a Galleon then laid up in the Bay, and were kept there by the Captain, who had brought them Prisoners from the *West-Indies*) had resolv'd to take the Boat in the Night from the Stern of the *Papa*, and go off in her; and, if I thought proper, I might make my Escape along with them.

As I thought there was a very good Prospect of escaping, I ask'd him where they intended to go to first. He told me their Design was to go to the *Madeiras*, which was about a Hundred Leagues distant N. where they should be sure of getting a Passage to *England* or *Holland*; which was almost as well, as they might soon go from thence to *England*.

When I had heard the whole of their Design, I assur'd him I would go with them,
and

JAMES WYATT. 79

and we fix'd upon the Tweny-ninth of *June*, 1742, for the Day of our Departure. A little while afterwards he took his Leave of me, and I went to Don *Mathias Carter's* to lodge, as usual.

As nothing very material happen'd from the Time of our agreeing to make our Escape, to the Day of putting our Design in Execution, I shall therefore, according to Promise, give a succinct Account of the *Canary* Islands; which I shall do partly from my own Knowledge, and partly from the Relation of others.

Mr. *Gordon*, in his Geographical Grammar, says, that the *Spaniards* call these Islands, *Islas Canarias*, because they found a vast Number of Dogs thereon, at their first Discovery of them; the Word *Can*, being *Spanish* for Dog. They were anciently called the *Fortunate Islands*, and are called so to this Day by the *French*. They are seven in Number, and are situated between the twenty-seventh and twenty-ninth Degrees of Northern Latitude, and between the twelfth and twenty-first Degrees of Western Longitude, reckoning from the Meridian of *London*.

The first of these Islands that I shall describe, is call'd the *Grand Canary*. It is about fourteen Leagues S. E. of *Teneriffe*, and is about one Hundred and Fifty Miles in Circumference. The chief Town is commonly call'd *Canaria*, but by some it is call'd *Palma*. It is situated at a small Distance from the Sea, at the North Part of the Island. Here the Governor usually resides, and it is the See of a Bishop.

80 *The Life and Adventures of*

Bishop. It has a large and beautiful Cathedral, richly adorn'd, and ornamented with Painting, &c. in a very curious Manner. There are likewise several other Churches and Convents; and here is the Court of Inquisition, which I shall speak of hereafter. It is a pretty large Town, and very populous. Their chief Trade is in Wine and Oil.

The whole Island is exceeding fruitful, abounding in Corn, Wine, Cattle, &c. The Air is very temperate here, and the Sky almost always serene. The Fields afford an agreeable Variety of Flowers, which make them appear extremely delightful; and the Groves echo with the Harmony of those Birds which all the World admire, and are called (from this Island) *Canary Birds*.

It is true there are many Birds, called also *Canary Birds*, brought from *Germany*; but those are no more to compare with these on this Island, than a Linnet is to those brought from *Germany*; though it must be acknowledged they are more likely to live in *England* than the true *Canary Birds*, as the Climates of *England* and *Germany* are neither of them so hot as the *Canaries*; and therefore, those brought from thence seldom out-live a severe Winter.

Having given some Account of the Produce and delightful Situation of this Island, I shall say something concerning the Inquisition, which reigns here (as it does in most Roman Catholick Countries) in a very arbitrary Manner, and nothing is so much dreaded. It is sometimes

JAMES WYATT. 81

sometimes called the Holy Office. It consists of an Inquisitor-General, Inquisitors, Assessors, Qualificators, a Secretary, an Advocate-Fiscal, a Treasurer, Familiars, and Jailors.

The King names the Inquisitor-General, and the Pope confirms him. No Subject is exempted from his Jurisdiction, it is so absolute and extensive.

The Treasurer, when the Prisoner is apprehended, takes into his Custody all his Goods and personal Estate.

The Familiars are the Officers that take the accus'd Persons into Custody; and, it is said, the Nobility sometimes enter themselves as Familiars, by Way of Protection against the Civil Magistrate.

The Alguazils (or Jailors) must not suffer the Persons committed to their Charge to have any Manner of Correspondence with their Friends, or receive from them any Support.

The Inquisitors, and the Officers belonging to them, take an Oath not to discover any Thing transacted in that Court; if they should, they are punish'd with the utmost Severity.

The Proceedings of this Court are on an Information, after which a Familiar is sent for, who receives an Order to apprehend those Persons, whose Names are contain'd in the said Order.

As soon as the Persons are apprehended, they are had to Prison; each being put in a little dark Room, which is provided for that Purpose.

82 *The Life and Adventures of*

pose. Their Diet is brought by the Alguazil, and they are suffer'd to see no other Person.

After spending two or three Days in this dismal Prison, he is sent for, and passes three different Examinations. If he still pleads Not Guilty, he is rack'd till he makes a Confession. Those who are found Guilty, are kept in Prison till the Time appointed for an Act of Faith.

They go in Procession to the Place appointed for their Execution, where a Scaffold is erected for that Purpose. After some Prayers, and a Sermon against Heresy, they are put on a Kind of Bench pretty near the Top of the Stake, Fire is set to the Wood, and the poor miserable Wretches are burnt alive.

Thus have I related the Proceedings of the Inquisition as briefly as I could; by which we who live in *England* may see the Happiness we enjoy, by our being free from such an arbitrary Power.

Having now done with the Inquisition, I proceed to give a Description of the rest of the *Canary* Islands. That call'd the *Grand Canary*, I have describ'd already. The next I shall speak of is call'd *Ferro*. It is the most Westerly Island of the *Canaries*. It is very small, being not above twenty-three Miles in Circumference. There are several fruitful Valleys in the Island, which afford Plenty of Corn, Fruits, Sugar-Canes, &c. but the Inhabitants are oblig'd to fetch their fresh Water from the neighbouring

JAMES WYATT. 83

neighbouring Islands, or preserve it in proper Receptacles set apart for that Purpose.

Teneriffe, another of the *Canary* Islands, is about twenty Leagues E. of *Ferro*. It is about an Hundred and twenty Miles in Circumference; and, though very mountainous, yet the Valleys abound with excellent Fruits, Corn, Wine, &c. It has likewise Abundance of Laurel and Dragon Trees. This Island is famous all the World over for its prodigious Peak. It appears to the Eye as a large Mass of many Rocks, promiscuously heap'd up, in Form of a rugged Pyramid. It is thought by some curious Naturalists, says Mr. *Gordon*, to have been suddenly rais'd by a mighty Conflagration of much subterraneous, sulphurous Matter, whose forcible Eruption the very Rocks could not withstand, but were thereby pil'd up in the Manner they now appear. For strengthening this Conjecture, they alledge the Quantity of Sulphur with which this Island doth still abound, especially near the Foot of the Peak, and the Colours of the Rocks themselves, many of them seeming to Spectators, as though long burnt in a Fire. Some Travellers say this Peak is fifteen Miles high perpendicular; others five, and others two; which last is thought to be most consonant to Truth. The upper Part of it is white, looks something resembling a Sugar-Loaf, and may be seen plainly above the Clouds, when a Ship is at Sea, and several Leagues distant from it.

The chief Towns in *Teneriffe* are, *St. Christopher's of the Lake*, (but it is commonly called

84 *The Life and Adventures of*

called the *Lagoon*) *Oratavia*, and *Santa Cruz*.

St. Christopher's is a large Town. It is very populous, and has two Churches, several Convents, Hospitals, &c. and is pleasantly situated on the Side of a Hill. There is likewise a Castle, in which I was sometime a Prisoner, with several others, as before related.

Oratavia is a Port Town, and is a Place of the greatest Trade on the whole Island. There is but one Parish Church, but there are several Convents. Here several Merchants reside. They trade chiefly to the *West Indies*, where they send all Sorts of *European Goods*, such as Cloth, Hats, &c. with which they are supply'd (when we are at War with them) by the *French* and *Dutch*.

Santa Cruz is but a little Town, nevertheless it is a Place of great Strength. It has several Batteries of great Guns. There is one of the Castles mounts twelve Guns, whereof some are thirty-two Pounders. There is one Church in the Town, and another at a small Distance from it. There is likewise two Convents; one of the Order of *St. Francis*, and the other of *St. Dominick*.

This Island is exceeding pleasant, having great Variety of Vineyards, the chief Produce thereof being Wine and Oil.

Palma is another of the *Canary Islands*. It is very small, being not above twenty-two Miles in Circumference, nevertheless it affords the best Wine in all the *Canary Islands*. It is about ten Leagues N. E. of *Ferro*.

Gomera

JAMES WYATT. 85

Gomera (another of the *Canary* Islands) is about ten Leagues E. of *Ferro*. It is very small, affords very little Wine, but abounds in Corn, Fruits, &c.

Forre Ventura (or the Island of *Good Fortune*) is another of the *Canary* Islands. It is very long and narrow, and abounds in Corn, Fruits, Cattle, &c. though it produces very little Wine.

Lancerota (the last of the *Canary* Islands) is very small, having only a few Villages in it. It is nevertheless a very fruitful Island, abounding in Corn, Cattle, Fruits, &c.

All these Islands are exceeding pleasant, but are subject to Earthquakes.

But to return to our Design of making our Escape. The Day appointed being come (which was the Twenty-ninth of *June*, as before-mention'd) I went to see my Fellow-Prisoners at the Castle. As I imagin'd it would be the last Time I should see them there, I took with me whatever I thought they most wanted. I likewise gave them some Money; and, after continuing with them for some Time, I came away, not giving them the least room to suspect they would not see me there any more, lest our Design should be discovered.

I was taken Prisoner by the *Spaniards* on the Twelfth of *September*, 1741, and continu'd on the *Canary* Islands till the Twenty-ninth of *June*, 1742; so that I was a Prisoner there for the Space of nine Months, and seventeen Days.

H

This

86 *The Life and Adventures of*

This Day we bought up what Provisions we could ; every one buying something, but at different Places, to prevent any Suspicion. We had bought about thirty Penny Loaves, and some Meat, which we took great Care of till the Time of our Departure. We had likewise got some Water.

About Eleven o'Clock at Night we met together. An Hour or two after that, we got our Provisions on board the Galleon's Boat, and embark'd in her ourselves, in order to steer our Course to the *Madeiras*. The Galleon we cut the Boat from was called the *Papa*, as has been before-mention'd.

There were seven of us in the Boat in all, viz. Capt. *Robert Winter*, *Thomas Burroughs* his Mate, *William Smith*, *John Swanick*, *Robert Larder*, *William Newell*, and myself. We row'd away as fast as possible, till we were got about Half a League from the Shore, and then hoisted Sail.

Our Boat had five Oars, and a Sprit-Sail. We had a Compass, but no Quadrant, or other Instruments necessary for making Observations, which Capt. *Winter* did endeavour to get, but could not.

The Wind being at W. and by S. when we put off from the Shore, and our Course being directly N. we imagin'd we should reach the *Madeiras* without much Difficulty ; but, when we were got about three Leagues at Sea, the Wind, which before was at W. and by S. was now full N. E. the other being only an Eddy Wind that blew into the Bay.

The

JAMES WYATT. 87

The Wind continuing to blow very fresh at N. E. we were oblig'd to bear away to the Westward of the Island call'd the *Grand Canary*.

The Thirtieth of *June*, in the Morning, we were close under the West End of the *Grand Canary*. At Sun-rising it became quite calm, which oblig'd us to strike our Sails, and put out our Oars.

We row'd as fast as we could for several Hours. At length we came to the Eastward of the *Grand Canary*. We saw several Vessels in the Bay, but kept off as much as we could, for fear of being discovered and taken by the *Spaniards*.

Towards Evening the Wind blew very hard at N. E. About ten at Night it blew much harder; and, a few Hours after, it blew a perfect Storm.

This oblig'd us to bear away to the Southward. As it blew very terrible indeed, we took one of our Oars, and lash'd it from one Mast to the other. The Men who cut the Yawl from the Ship had brought two Tarpolins, one of which we took, and made an Earning athwart the Boat, laying it over the Oar before-mention'd, and tacking it down to the Gunnel. We ty'd our Bread up in the other Tarpolin, in order to keep it from being spoil'd by the Water.

The Storm continu'd for several Hours; during which Time five of us (out of the seven) were constantly employ'd in bailing out the Water which came into the Boat; two

88 *The Life and Adventures of*

with Pails (which we happen'd to have in the Boat, and which were of the utmost Service to us) and the other three threw it out with their Hats.

We were exceedingly fatigu'd with labouring in this Manner, and relieved one another as often as we could: But the Necessity there was of keeping the Boat as free from Water as possible, oblig'd us to do it, for the Preservation of our Lives; and, notwithstanding all our Diligence, the Boat had like to have sunk several Times.

The First of *July*, about Eight o'Clock in the Morning, the Storm began to abate; and, about Noon, it blew a pleasant Gale, though it still continu'd at N. E.

All this Day, and the Night following, we kept running to the Southward. We had pleasant sailing, so that in a little Time we were pretty well recover'd from the Fatigue we had lately underwent. Nothing happen'd very material.

The Second of *July*, about Three o'Clock in the Afternoon, we made a Point of Land, which we imagin'd was Cape *Bajadore*, in *Barbary*.

We were exceeding glad to see it, and made directly towards it. When we came within Half a League of the Shore, we consulted what it was best to do. Some among us, who knew nothing of the Country, were for going ashore directly; but Capt. *Winter* and his Mate told us, it was a very barren Country; that there were hardly any Inhabitants; and that

JAMES WYATT. 89

that *Santa Cruz* was the most southerly Part of *Barbary* where any *European* Ships traded, or where the *Moors* had any Habitation. But we afterwards found to the contrary.

Upon their telling us so, we were for going to *Santa Cruz*, in *Barbary*; but Capt. *Winter* told us, we had a Trade-Wind against us almost all the Way; that it was an Hundred Leagues distant; and that the Voyage could not be perform'd in less than a Month. He told us, in Half that Time we might get to *Gambo*, being always sure of a fair Wind, if there was any at all.

At length all agreed to what Capt. *Winter* said. We made all the Sail we could, which was a Fore-Sail and Main-Sail, and steer'd our Course for *Gambo*.

As Capt. *Winter* had an Ivory Memorandum-Book in his Pocket, he kept a Reckoning thereon, as well as he could, computing that we ran at the Rate of five or six Knots an Hour.

We run all this Night under a pleasant Gale, still steering our Course for *Gambo*. Nothing happen'd very material.

The Third of *July* we had likewise very pleasant Weather. About Four o'Clock in the Afternoon we saw two Sail under Land. One was a Brigantine, and the other a Sloop. We steer'd directly towards them. At first we knew not what to make of them; but at length discovered they were two Vessels which came from the *Canary* Islands, in order to catch Fish.

When

90 *The Life and Adventures of*

When they saw our Boat, they endeavour'd to come nearer each other ; which they did, as we imagin'd, to talk together about us. Upon this we made the best of our Way from them, for fear they should come and take us Prisoners ; but we could not perceive that they offered to stir after us.

The Fourth of *July* we kept sailing with a pleasant Gale, the Wind being at N. E. and running sometimes four, five, and six Knots in an Hour, according to our Reckoning. Nothing material happen'd.

The Fifth of *July* we sail'd much in the same Manner, the Weather continuing very fair. Nothing material happen'd this Day, or the Night following.

The Sixth of *July*, about Two o'Clock in the Afternoon, keeping near Land, we saw a Point run out to the Westward, which we took to be Cape *Blanca*.

About Six in the Evening we came to the Point. The Land, after we had come to the Point, stretch'd directly away to the Eastward. Capt. *Winter* had two Books of Navigation about him : I think one was entitled, *The Mariner's Compass* ; but the other I have forgot.

Upon looking over these Books, he found that *Senegal* River lay somewhere near the Place where we were. He advis'd us to keep within Sight of Land ; which we did, but without being able to discover *Senegal*.

From the Time we first made the *Barbary* Shore, we divid'd ourselves into two Watches.

The

JAMES WYATT. 91

The Captain, *John Swannick* and myself, made one Watch ; and Mr. *Burroughs* the Captain's Mate, *William Smith*, *Robert Larder*, and *William Newell*, in the other.

About Eleven o'Clock at Night, the Sea being very smooth, the Captain bid me go forward in the Bow of the Boat, to look if I could see Land ; which accordingly I did, but could see none. He then ordered me to take up a Half-Pike, which our Men had brought from the Ship, and try if I could feel the Bottom. I did so, and found we had not above three Feet Water, with which I immediately acquainted the Captain.

When I had told him, he presently called to Mr. *Burroughs*, who was asleep under the Earning. He got up directly and came out ; and, after looking about him a small Time, he said he believed we were got upon some of the sandy Islands.

We put about, and stood to the Westward of the South, for about an Hour ; after which we steer'd our old Course again, the Wind being at N. and blowing a pleasant Gale.

About Midnight we found ourselves on the same Kind of sandy Islands again ; upon which Mr. *Burroughs* said to the Captain, that we had better come to a Grapling, and lye to till Morning ; which accordingly we did, after we had stood off a little.

The Seventh of *July*, in the Morning by Break of Day, we saw the Shore close by us, with a great many People, as we thought, walking

92 *The Life and Adventures of*

walking to and fro ; but, when it grew lighter, we found we were mistaken, for it was only some large Birds that were walking thereon.

About Sun-rising we haul'd up our Grapling, finding these Places to be nothing but little sandy Islands, which were covered at High-Water, and that the Main Land lay at about a League Distance.

We stood off for about an Hour. Mr. *Burroughs* cry'd out, he saw a Sloop at Anchor between those sandy Islands. We all look'd towards it, and saw the Mast of some Vessel, but not the Hull ; upon which Capt. *Winter* said it was surely some Vessel trading for Gum, for he was certain this was the Gum Coast.

At length we stood away to the Eastward, and found a little Gut run in between two sandy Islands. When we had run about a Mile up the Gut, the Captain ordered *Swannick* and I to go ashore, and take the Half-Pike and Hatchet with us, which were all the Weapons we had. He bid us walk on the Shore, and see if we could discover what she was.

Accordingly we got on the Shore, and then we could plainly see her Hull lying dry upon the Sands. We called to the Captain, and acquainted him with it ; who, with Mr. *Burroughs*, came ashore, and saw it likewise. The Captain said, that perhaps these might be some poor distressed People, like ourselves, whose Vessel has run aground, and they cannot get her off again.

At

JAMES WYATT. 93

At length he order'd *Swannick* and me to go towards the Vessel, and see if we could discover any People; but do it with Caution, lest they should be Enemies, and destroy us. We did so; and when we had walk'd about Half a Mile, we could plainly see several People near the Vessel, walking to and fro.

At a little Distance from the Boat, there grew some large Sea-Weeds, much such as I have seen grow along the Sea-Shore in *England*, only a great deal larger. When these People first discover'd us, they run, most of them, and laid down behind those Sea-Weeds, that their Number might not make us afraid to come to them.

When we were got within about a Quarter of a Mile of the Vessel, *Swannick*, our Carpenter, took a Piece of White *Spanish* Pennant, fasten'd it to the Half-Pike, and carried it in his Hand as a Flag of Truce. As soon as they saw that, they got a Piece of White Rag, and fasten'd it upon one of their Fishing-Spears, as a Token of Peace likewise.

When they saw we would not come any nearer to them, four of them came towards us; we being on one Side of the Gut, and they on the other. When these four came pretty near us, six more rose from behind the Weeds, and followed them; and so on, to the Number of thirty.

When they came facing of us, we could plainly see they were *Moors* and *Negroes*, and that some of them were quite naked. Upon seeing their Number, and what they were, I
was

94 *The Life and Adventures of*

was for going back, according to the Captain's Orders; but *Swannick* said, we need not do that, for as they were *Moors* they would not hurt us, as their Nation and ours were not in a State of War with each other.

Upon this, we stood a little, and one from among the *Moors* called to us in the *Portuguese* Language, and ask'd us what we wanted. I, not knowing what he said, answered we were *Englishmen*; upon which, another reply'd, in bad *English*, we are all the same as *English*; we are *Moors*; for why came you here?

Thinking we were now got among Friends, I made no Difficulty of discovering our Case to them. I told them that we had made our Escape from the *Spaniards*; that we were endeavouring to go to *Gambo*, in *Guinea*; and that we were in great Want of Provisions.

When I had done speaking, they all waded directly over to us. There were among them two others that spoke bad *English*. They told us, that they would relieve us with every Thing we wanted, and that they would go along with us down to the Boat.

We immediately went along with them down to our Boat; but, when our Men saw so many of them coming together, they rowed directly down the Gut. When the *Moors* saw that, they ask'd us, why they row'd from us. We told them that our Men seeing so many of them with us, were afraid they were Enemies; but if they would let us go to our Boat, they would stay for us, and we would as-

sure

sure them they (the *Moors*) were Friends, and prevail with our Men to come back to them.

Accordingly they order'd me to go, and the other to stay with them, as a Hostage for the Performance of what I had promised. When our Men saw me coming towards them, they lay upon their Oars till I came near them, and then ask'd me who they were. I told them, that they were *Moors* and *Negroes* together; and that they had kindly promised to give us what Provisions and Water we wanted.

Upon hearing this, our Men immediately row'd towards Shore; which the *Moors* seeing, came all away directly towards us. When they came where the Boat lay, they took all our Men out, but one, and put their own in; telling us, we should go with them to their Houses, and eat and drink as much as we would. This they said, because we had told them that we were in great want of Food, having liv'd very hard from the Time we left the *Canary Islands*.

We immediately went with them cross the Island, which was about three Quarters of a Mile, to the Place where their Huts were erected, which they call'd Houses. They were built with Sticks stuck in the Ground, and Turtle-Grass thrown over them.

Their Huts, according to their Manner of building them, would keep out only the Sun; for when it rains (which it does almost successively for the Months of *August* and *September*) there is scarce any Difference to be found between being in a Hut, or in the open Air.

When

96 *The Life and Adventures of*

When we came to their Huts, they broiled us some Fish. We had no Bread, or any Thing else to eat with them; and they broiled them, without taking out the Guts, or scraping off the Scales.

While we were eating, the *Moors* who had got Possession of our Boat, went round the Island another Way, and brought her in pretty near the Huts, to the Place where their large Boat (the Vessel we first saw) and a little Boat lay.

We all eat very heartily, having had but two Ounces of Bread a Day, each Man, since we left *Teneriffe*, so that we were illy able to labour as we did, during the Storm. But what will not a Man do to preserve Life?

About an Hour after we had eaten the Fish, all but one of us were taken with a violent Vomitting and Purging: But after some Time, it wore off, and we were better.

There was among the *Moors* an old Man that spoke good *English*, and who called himself Capt. *Amer*. Capt. *Winter* and he had a pretty deal of Discourse together. He told Capt. *Winter*, that in about four or five Hours Time it would be High Water, and then he, and some of the *Moors*, would go with him to *Gambo*.

Upon this Capt. *Winter* told him, if he would go with us to *Gambo*, he would make him a Present of the Boat which we came to their Island in, and two others, as soon as we arriv'd there.

When

When Capt. *Winter* had promis'd him the three Boats, he return'd him a great many Thanks for his Kindness, and again assur'd him, he, and some of the *Moors*, would go off with him for *Gambo* at High Water; though, as you will afterwards find, he neither intended to go there himself, or to let us go.

Among other Discourse, while we were waiting for its being High Water, Capt. *Amer* told us, that he had been a Linguist to the *English*, at *Gambo*, near forty Years, when they traded there for Gum; that the Captain of the *Tuscany* Galley used to take a great deal of Delight in his Company, and always made him extreamly welcome; and that therefore he had ever since had a particular Respect for the *English*, and was ready to serve them whenever an Opportunity offer'd. But all this fine Talk was only to amuse us.

At length the Time of its being High Water was near at Hand, and we prepar'd for going to *Gambo*. We asked them several Times, if any of them would go with us, but they made us no Answer. At last Capt. *Winter* said, I find they are not willing to go with us, so we will go by ourselves. He then ordered us to take up the Half-Pike and Hatchet, which lay by the Side of one of the Huts, and to go directly to the Boat, and make every Thing ready for our Voyage.

As soon as the *Moors* found we were for going, they laid hold of us, and pull'd us one from another; after which, without any Manner of Provocation, they stripp'd us quite naked,

I
and

98 *The Life and Adventures of*

and then went to fighting one with another who should have our Cloaths: And though old *Amcr* was only a Spectator, yet I believe he was the Contriver of it.

At last they agreed to part our Cloaths by Lot, as we saw by their Actions. They went to our Boat, fetch'd all our Cloaths, &c. from thence, and put to the others; then cast Lots, and parted them among themselves.

When they had parted our Cloaths, they gave us a Shirt-apiece, which was all the Cloathing we had, and told us, in three Days Time they should leave that Place, and go to another Island, where there liv'd a great many more People; and, that when we came there, they would go with us to *Gambo*.

Though we did not believe one Word of all this, as we found they had deceiv'd us before; yet we were oblig'd to submit to them, not being in a Capacity to help ourselves.

They then had us to some more of their Huts, a little farther on the Island, where there were about thirty or forty more, Men and Women, some *Moors* and some *Negroes*.

At Night our Man (who till then had been kept by three of the *Moors* in our Boat) came to us, and told us, the *Moors* had taken almost every Thing out of the Bort, and that he believ'd they design'd to keep us Prisoners. This we all thought; but we were resolv'd, if possible, to make our Escape.

We continu'd three Days on this Island, during which Time we sat'd extreemly hard. We lay every Night on the Ground; and
for

JAMES WYATT. 99

for our Food had only Fish (and they sometimes raw) without either Rice, Bread, or any other Thing to eat with them.

As the Climate we were in was very hot, we were not in so much Distress for want of Food, as for want of Water.

There were seven of us, as I have before observ'd; and, during the three Days of our Continuance on this Island, we had not three Quarts of Water among us all; so that it is hardly possible to think what we endur'd for want of it, in a Climate so extreamly hot.

But in this respect it is fit I should do Justice to the *Moors*; for, bad as they were, it would still be a Crime in me to make them appear worse: Therefore, lest any of my Readers should imagine they had Water, and withheld it from us; I assure them, that what they gave us, they could very illy spare; and that we (as far as I could see) shar'd it equally with them.

But it is to be observ'd, that the Climate was natural to them; and therefore their Distress, though very great, was yet not comparable to ours: And besides they frequently are in want of Water, as I afterwards found, and therefore could the better make shift with a little.

This Island was exceeding barren, producing nothing that I could see; not even so much as Grass, or the short, stumpy Wood, which is usually found growing on the Islands in *Africa*. The Soil was a light Sand; so that what with that, the Heat of the Sun; and

100 *The Life and Adventures of*

the want of Water, the Hardships we underwent were very great.

It may be ask'd, what induces the *Moors* to come here, seeing the Place is so very barren, and they usually encounter so many Difficulties ?

To this I shall answer as briefly as I can, and according to the best of my Knowledge.

And *First*. They are not always in such want of Water, as I observ'd before : Besides, even now their Want had not been so great, had not we unfortunately came among them ; for what we drank, consequently made their little still the less.

Secondly. The Reason of their coming here is to catch Fish, which they get between the Islands in great Abundance, when the Tide is coming up. They afterwards send them to the Continent, where they find a good Market. And what Hardships will not Men endure for the sake of Gain ?

But to return. The third Day after our coming here, as they had before inform'd us, they went to another Island. It was, as near as I could guess, about thirteen Leagues distant from the other.

Before we set out, they told us, that the Island to which we were going had Water enough ; and that we should also fare much better, with regard to Food : But when we came there, we found it quite otherwise, there being upwards of forty People almost ready to perish for want of Water.

As

JAMES WYATT. 101

As soon as we landed on this Island, we were so pester'd with Swarms of Flies, that we were oblig'd almost continually to keep our Hands fanning before our Faces, to keep them off us.

The Reason of their being such Swarms of Flies at this Time, was as follows: The Inhabitants had caught a great Quantity of Fish, more than they could conveniently send to the Continent, and therefore had thrown them on the Shore, where they had laid till they were putrified, and prodigious Swarms of Flies had assembled about them, in order to devour them; nevertheless, when the Wind had been northerly, and pretty brisk, they have been suddenly dispers'd, and I have not seen any for several Days together.

Soon after we were on this Island, we desir'd Capt. *Amer* to give us some Water, as he had promised we should have as much as we wanted when we came here. He at first told us, that he believed there was not any on the Island: But on our telling him how illy he had done to deceive us in that Manner; and that we were just ready to perish for want of some, (as indeed we were, having been forty-eight Hours and not tasted a Drop) he at length order'd a Woman to bring us some, which accordingly she did.

She had hid a Pitcher in the Sand, which she uncover'd and brought to us. There was in it about a Quart of Water, but it had such a prodigious Number of Flies in it, that we were oblig'd to strain it through our Teeth: However, we parted it among ourselves, and
were

- 102 *The Life and Adventures of*

were exceedingly glad we had got it ; and really I believe we had died, if we had not had some soon.

In a few Hours after we landed, the *Moors* got their Skins ready, in which they us'd to save their Water, and prepar'd to go to the Continent to get some. They took three of our Men with them, and told us, in three Days Time they should be back, and then we should have Water enough.

While they were gone we had not one Drop of Water, or any Thing to drink, so that the Distress we were in was very great : And we had nothing to eat, but Fish, and they we were forc'd frequently to eat raw, for want of Wood to broil them on.

It was three Days after they went from this Island before they return'd ; so that we were five Days in this extream hot Part of the World, and in all that Time had not near a Pint of Water each Man. This may be thought incredible, but it is certainly true.

As soon as they return'd they gave us one of our Barrels full of Water, which held about ten Gallons. When we had got it, we drank to such Excess, that we were almost ready to burst, and the Night following was extreamly ill : However, the next Day we were better, and in a Day or two was perfectly well.

A Day or two after they had brought us Water, we all went to Capt. *Amer*, and ask'd him if he would let us go. He told us, he could not leave his People with so little Water ; but as soon as he had been once more, and got Water,

JAMES WYATT. 103

Water, we should certainly go, and he would go with us.

Accordingly they went again for Water, and all of us along with them. They took their two old Boats with them, intending to bring as much Water as all their Skins would hold, which they us'd to bring it in.

When we came to the Place where the Water was, we expected to have found a River; but instead of that, we found only a few Holes dug down in the Sand; and the Water so very shallow in these Holes, that we were forc'd to catch it up in Sea-Shells, to put it into the Skins. We could not get above two Gallons an Hour at each Hole, the Water came so very slow.

There were about thirty of these Holes, several of which we made ourselves. If we dug but two or three Inches deeper than ordinary, the Water would be Salt, and good for nothing.

When we had fill'd all the Skins we had, which we did in about five Hours, some of the *Moors* who had been Fishing all the while, brought us some Fish, which we broil'd, and made a very good Meal of.

As soon as we had eat the Fish, the *Moors* took Capt. *Winter* and his Mate further on the Continent, and left only four of their Men to guard us five *Englismen*.

We then thought this was a very good Time to make our Escape, as we could easily have got away from them, and took Possession of the Boat; but at length we resolv'd never to try

104 *The Life and Adventures of*

try to make our Escape, till we were all together, and all share the same Fortune, whether it was good or bad.

About Ten o'Clock the next Morning the *Moors* return'd to us again, and Capt. *Winter* and his Mate along with them. We all re-joic'd to see our Countrymen return; for we fear'd, as they came not over Night, that the *Moors* had carried them to some Place, where we should never see them any more.

When they came back to us, they got the Boats ready, and we went to the Island. It was three Days, from the Time we left it, before we return'd to it again; during which Time they frequently promis'd us, that we should go to *Gambo*, as soon as we return'd. They also told us, that there was three *English* Merchantmen, and one Man of War, taking in their Lading of Gums, &c. at *Portin Daric*.

The Place we intended to go to is chiefly called *Gambo* by the Sailors, but I find Geographers call it *Gambia*: However I shall call it as the Mariners do, and only mention this that the Reader may not be mistaken in the Place, through the Difference of its Names. The *English* have a Factory there, to which we intended to make our Escape, provided the *Moors* would not go with us, or give us Leave to go.

A small Time after we were return'd to this Island, we ask'd Capt. *Amer* if he would go with us, and he told us he would; upon which we began to get what Fish we could for our

Voyage,

JAMES WYATT. 105

Voyage, thinking it would not be long before he would go with us.

While we were getting the Fish, the *Moors* got together, and sat down on their Heels in a Ring, which is their usual Manner of sitting. We thought they did this to take their Leave of us, as Capt. *Amer*, and his two Sons, pretended they would go along with us.

In a little Time after they were sat in a Ring, they call'd Capt. *Winter* to them, and show'd him a round Piece of Paper wrote in *Arabick*, of about five Inches Diameter. Capt. *Amer* told him, that Letter came from their King; that he had sent Word there were no Ships at *Portin Daric*, but there would be some there in about three Months; and that we must stay on the Island with them for that Time.

Capt. *Winter* was very much surpriz'd at this, and told Capt. *Amer* that before three Months were expired we should be all dead, as he knew how well the *English* far'd, and that they could not live by Fish alone.

Finding Capt. *Amer* and his Sons did not care to go with us, we told him we would take our Boat and go by ourselves, as it might not suit them to go to *Gambo* for some Time, and so were going to take our Leave of them.

When the *Moors* found we were going, they immediately jump'd up on their Feet, seiz'd us, and haul'd us one from the other; saying if ever we spoke to one another, while
we

106 *The Life and Adventures of*

we were on the Island, they would cut our Throats. We begg'd of Capt. *Amer* that we might be together; told him we had done them no Harm, neither did we intend to do them any; and therefore hop'd, as we were *Englishmen*, and he told us he had a Value for all that came from our Country, that he would permit us to be together, which would be a great Satisfaction to us, as we were in a strange Land, and be no Prejudice to him, or the People that belong'd to him.

At length we prevail'd with him to let us be together again; but he told us, if ever we attempted to go away, without Leave, we should be severely punish'd, and never see one another any more.

We now saw plainly they intended to make us Slaves, and therefore from this Time consulted in what Manner we should make our Escape. But we were forc'd to use the utmost Caution in our Consultations, for after this we were afraid almost to speak to each other in the Presence of the *Moors*, lest they should imagine we were contriving to escape, and part us in order to prevent it.

As the *Moors* had some Suspicion that we intended to make our Escape, they moor'd the Boats every Night about a Mile from the Shore, and left three Men in them, in order to watch them.

It was our Misfortune that three of us, out of the seven, could not swim. *viz. Newell, Smith and Larder.* Had we all known how to swim, we would have struck off from the
Shore

JAMES WYATT. 107

Shore at the Dead of Night, swam to our Boat, seiz'd her, made the three *Moors* that watch'd her get into their own Boat, and steer'd for *Gambo*.

The Twenty-ninth of *July* they took our Boat, and went to the usual Place for Water. When they came back, they did not take it out of the Boat, as they us'd to do, but left it in; and Capt. *Amer* came to our Captain, and told him, if our Carpenter would mend their great Boat, he would go with us to *Gambo* as soon as it was mended. Capt. *Winter* ask'd him how the Carpenter could mend it, having no Boards, Tools, Nails, Hemp, &c. to mend it with.

Upon Capt. *Amer*'s saying he would provide every Thing the Carpenter should have occasion for, our Captain told him he should mend it as soon as he pleas'd; and that he hop'd, when it was mended, he would be as good as his Word, and go with us to *Gambo*; which he assur'd him he would, though he never design'd it.

When our Captain had promis'd that the Carpenter should mend the Boat, six of the *Moors* went into her, took her a little Way from the Shore, and then turn'd her Bottom upwards. This they were afraid to do on the Land, lest she should fall to Pieces, being very Worm-eaten.

As soon as they had done this, they draw'd her as nigh the Shore as possible; that, when the Tide went off, it might leave her dry. When they had done so, a great many of them
went

108 *The Life and Adventures of*

went into our Boat, as many as she could well carry; and some more went up the Island, as we suppos'd, to be transported in our Boat, from one Island to another.

As soon as they were gone, Mr. *Burroughs* call'd to Capt. *Winter*, and desir'd to speak with him. We all went to hear what Mr. *Burroughs* had to say. When we had walk'd about a Quarter of a Mile from the Place where the *Moors* took Boat, Mr. *Burroughs* address'd himself to Capt. *Winter*, and said, 'These Villains are certainly going to leave us on this Island, for they have taken our Boat away now, and Half their People are gone in her; so that when we have mended the great Boat, then the rest will go likewise, and leave us here to perish.

The Reason Mr. *Burroughs* gave for his thinking so, was, because the *Moors* us'd always, as soon as they landed, to take the Water out of the Boat: But this Time they had not taken any out of the Boat, but taken it with them, and therefore he concluded they went with a Design to stay, and had appointed the rest to follow them.

We presently came all into his Opinion, and consulted what was to be done. We at length came to a Resolution to take the *Moors* little Boat in the Morning, not being able to turn the great one Bottom downwards, and to go to *Gambo*; and should the *Moors* offer to hinder us, to repel Force with Force, and stand by each other as long as we had Life.

One

JAMES WYATT. 109

One of our Men had got a Bible, which he fetch'd (the *Moors* having returned us our Books, though they afterwards took them from us again) and we spent all the following Night in Prayer and reading the Scriptures. The *Moors* came two or three Times to the Place where we were praying; but, seeing us at our Devotion, went away each Time without saying any Thing to us.

The next Morning we reckoned how many People were left on the Island, and we found their Number amounted to upwards of Fifty Men and Women, besides Children. We then contrived to get their Fishing Spears into our Possession, that they might have as few offensive Weapons as possible, provided it should come to a Battle.

When we had done this, the Carpenter went and asked for some Tools, in order (as he pretended) to mend their great Boat; but, in Fact, it was to make Holes in her Bottom, to prevent their coming after us, and bringing us back again.

Accordingly *Marta*, one of Capt. *Amer's* Sons, (the Captain himself being gone with the *Moors* in our Boat) gave the Carpenter an Adz, a Hammer, and a little Hatchet, which Hatchet they had taken from us. These were all the Tools they had, except two or three old Chissels.

Having got these Tools, I went with the Carpenter, in order to help him beat some Holes in the Bottom of the *Moors* great Boat. We had beat several before the *Moors*

K observed

110 *The Life and Adventures of*

observed what we were about ; but at length, seeing us beat her Bottom to Pièces, four of the *Moors* came to us, viz. *Marta, Duckanar, Mahomet, and Monsore*. When they came to us, they bid us stop our Hands, and not beat any more Holes in her, till we had Boards to mend them.

Thinking we had pretty well disabled her, we gave over, and left them looking at her, while we went to their little Boat, which lay just by. Several of the *Moors* were near her on the Shore ; nevertheless we thought this was the Time, if ever, for us to make our Escape.

At length, being all got together, we went where the Boat lay. We told the *Moors*, we were resolved to go, let the Event be what it would ; that they, contrary to the Law of Nations, had detained us Prisoners in a Time of Peace ; had likewise broke the Truce we entered into when we first landed ; had stripped us of our Cloaths, &c. which they had no Property in ; that they now had gone off with our Boat, with a Design, in all Probability, of leaving us on this Island to perish ; that they had done all this without any Manner of Provocation from us ; and that therefore we were resolved to go away in their Boat, or perish in the Attempt.

As soon as we had said so, we made towards the Boat. I had got the Hammer and the Adz, the Carpenter had the Hatchet, and the rest of our People had Fishing-Spears, &c. The *Moors* perceiving us make towards the Boat,

JAMES WYATT. III

Boat, ran between that and us, in order to prevent our getting into her.

This began the Fight: For the Carpenter finding they intended to hinder our going, beat *Marta* into the Water (which was about three Feet deep) with the Hatchet, and *Duckanar* presently after him. I struck at *Mabomet* with the Adz, and took off a Piece of Flesh, and Part of his Ear.

He that I cut with the Adz, cryed out terribly; and, in an Instant, every one was out of their Huts, and pulling them down, in order to get Sticks to fight us, our Men having secured all their Fishing-Spears, as before-observ'd.

Seeing this, we ran to the Assistance of our Countrymen as fast as we could, leaving the two *Moors* that fell into the Water for dead.

The *Moors* came very near us with the Sticks they pull'd out of their Huts, and then threw them at us; one of which hit *Robert Larder*, and broke his Thumb.

One of our Men, looking round, saw the two *Moors* who we thought were dead, standing up against the Side of the Boat. Upon his saying they were there, I ran towards them, having still the Hammer in one Hand, and the Adz in the other. When they saw me coming, they ran round the Boat, got to their Companions, and fought as well as though they had not been hurt.

We were obliged to keep our Ground, for fear some of the *Moors* should get into the

112 *The Life and Adventures of*

little Boat, in which we intended to make our Escape, and which was not above an Hundred Yards behind us.

At length one of the *Moors* came running behind Mr. *Burroughs*, and gave him a terrible Blow on the Head with a Stick. Mr. *Burroughs* immediately turned round and struck at him, but missed him. The Man ran directly up the Island; and Mr. *Burroughs* in the Hurry, not thinking of the Consequence, ran after him.

Seeing Mr. *Burroughs* run after the Man, we kept calling to him, to come back to us; when, on a sudden, the *Moors* took to their Heels, and ran every one of them after him. Some of them presently came up with him, knocked him down with their Sticks, and cut his Throat from Ear to Ear, before we could come to his Assistance.

While we were pursuing the *Moors*, when they followed Mr. *Burroughs*, in hopes of delivering him out of their Hands, some of them turned back again, and made towards their little Boat, thinking to have got her off, in order to prevent our making our Escape.

As soon as we saw that, we all ran as fast as possible to secure the Boat. As I was the nearest to the Boat of any of our Men, I got the soonest to her; but there was one of the *Moors* had got to the Boat before me, and was getting up her Side. When I came pretty near him, I gave him a Blow on his Back with the Hammer; upon which he let go his Hold,

JAMES WYATT. 113

Hold, and fell into the Water. As he was falling; I hit him another Blow on the Head; upon which he fell under the Boat, and rose up on the other Side.

I followed him as fast as I could, but could not overtake him: Being met by Capt. *Winter*, he turned about, in order to run from him, upon which Capt. *Winter* stuck the Fishing-Spear in the Middle of his Back, notwithstanding which he ran away from him, and got to the rest of the *Moors*.

While we were in the Fight, three of our Men got into the Boat, and kept calling to us to come in likewise; which at length we did, retreating all the Way with our Faces towards the *Moors*. When we came to the Boat, the other three, with the Fishing-Spears, kept off the *Moors* till we got in, cut the Grapling loose, and drove away with the Tide, it being then High Water.

As we had neither Mast, Sails, Rudder or Oars, we took some Pieces of Wood which were laid in this Boat, in order to mend the large one, split them, and ty'd them with Cords; after which, we pull'd off our Shirts, and made Sails therewith.

As we knew we could not go a great Way in this Boat, in the Condition she was in, we steered directly for the Continent, where the *Moors* used to get their Water. We got to the Main Land about Seven o'Clock at Night, after having been about nine Hours on the Water.

When

114 *The Life and Adventures of*

When we came ashore, we took our Shirts, and turned the Boat adrift. We landed within about a League of the Place where we got the Water, walked about a Mile on the Sand, and then lay down for that Night, being exceeding hungry and thirsty, but we had nothing either to eat or to drink. We intended to rise very early in the Morning, and pursue our Journey to *Portin Darick*.

In the Morning, about Sun-rising, we got up, and walked on. In a little Time, looking behind us, we saw several Men running after us, which we took to be some of the *Moors* from whence we came.

We had broke all the Fishing-Spears over Night, and buried them in the Sand, lest the *Moors* on the Continent should imagine we had killed those on the Island, and brought away their Boat and Spears.

When they came near us, we could see they were not the *Moors* we had been fighting with, but some from the Main Land. They kept beckoning to us, and pointing for us to return from whence we came, but we still kept walking on.

At length by their making a Noise, and looking round, we imagin'd they had more coming to their Assistance. This we found to be true; for their Number quickly encreased from Ten to Forty, and some of them had Fishing-Spears.

As they saw we were most of us unarmed, they came almost close to us, and made several
Offers,

JAMES WYATT. 115

Offers, as though they would throw their Fishing-Spears at us.

Swannick, our Carpenter, had got the Hatchet. He turn'd round, and made a Stand; thinking, as I suppose, to deter them from coming on. I, and the four others, walk'd on; but, on looking round, to see whether the *Moors* pursu'd us, we saw *Swannick* knock'd down, and the *Moors* stripping him.

Upon seeing this, we ran as fast as we could; but at length they came up with us. As I was before the others, they laid hold on them first; and, while they were stripping them, I ran and hid myself among some short Bushes, hoping they would not find me out.

As soon as they had stripp'd the other four, they came directly where I lay, and surrounded the Bush. Having found a large strong Stick where I lay, I got up, when I heard them coming, and fought with them for a small Time; but at length I was knock'd down, and stripp'd likewise.

The Blow they gave me, made me insensible for a few Minutes; but, coming to myself again, I stood up, and the *Moors* had me to my Companions.

In a small Time, they made us all go back with them to a Point of Land, call'd Point *Gengar*, where they had a few Huts erected. Here they kept us till the *Moors*, from whence we had made our Escape, came after us, which was two Days.

Point *Gengar* is a little barren Point of Land, producing nothing but a few short Bushes.

116 *The Life and Adventures of*

Bushes. The Huts here are built in the same Manner as those on the Islands, where we had been with the other *Moors*. Point *Gengar* is on the Continent.

As they had taken our Shirts from us, we were blister'd with the Heat of the Sun in a terrible Manner, so that we hardly knew each other, *i. e.* not to distinguish who we were, but by our Size or Voice. These Blisters were very sore and troublesome.

During the two Days of our continuing at Point *Gengar*, we were almost constantly at Prayers and reading the Scripture (having the Bible, &c. with us) as we expected nothing but Death, as soon as the other *Moors* arriv'd.

When we saw their Boat coming, we went to the Water-Side, that they might kill us in their Fury, and not put us to a lingering and cruel Death. As soon as they came ashore, they beat us cruelly, knock'd us down, and then trod on us, in a very barbarous and inhuman Manner.

They then took Capt. *Winter* and me away, and made the other four sit down on a Log of Wood. They bound Capt. *Winter* and me Back to Back, and put a Cord round our Necks to have strangled us; which they had certainly done, had not the *Moors* who liv'd on the Continent hinder'd them from it.

At length they ty'd the other four Back to Back, as they had done Capt. *Winter* and me, put us all into the Boat, and carried us back to the Island, where they kept us four Days and
four

JAMES WYATT. 117

four Nights, without giving us any Thing either to eat or drink. They likewise took our Journals and Bible from us, and afterwards stopp'd up the Holes in their Huts with the Leaves, to keep out the Dust and the Heat of the Sun.

It is not possible to express the Hardships we underwent, during these four Days. We were very much bruise'd and wounded by the *Moors*, as before mention'd; we lay on the Ground, bound Back to Back, a good Part of the Time; our Wounds were very uneasy; our Lodging hard; and we just perishing, for want of Food and Water. *But God preserv'd us in this perilous Time!*

When we had lain four Days and Nights (as before related) in this miserable Condition, they came to us, and told us, if we would promise them not to endeavour to make our Escape again, and would do what they had for us to do, they would give us both Fish and Water. We agreed to what they said, and they brought us some broil'd Fish and Water in less than an Hour.

We drank a great deal of the Water, being exceeding thirsty, but could not eat much of the Fish; having fasted till we were sick, and had lost our Appetites.

It was some Days before we recover'd; during which Time we had Fish and Water given us, and they did not oblige us to labour: But, as soon as we recover'd, they made us do all Sorts of Drudgery; and thought we never did Work enough.

I have

118 *The Life and Adventures of*

I have already mention'd Mr. *Burroughs's* Reason for thinking the *Moors*, when they went off in our Boat, intended not to return again. I mention this now, to inform the Reader that they did return in two Days, and that it was our Boat they came in, to fetch us from the Continent, when we had made our Escape. The real Reason of their going was, to barter Fish for Boards, Nails, &c. with some of the *Moors* on the Continent.

After we grew pretty well, they used to take us with them a Fishing; and they frequently made us carry them on our Shoulders to and from the Boat, on our Backs, when the Shore was stoney, and they could not bring her to Land.

As the *Moors* knew I could swim very well, they made me labour more than my Companions, though their Case was bad enough. They frequently sent me for Water to the Continent, when they were fishing in their Boat, and near a League from it. I us'd to take one of the Skins they sav'd their Water in, swim to the Continent, fill it, and swim back with it to the Boat.

One Night, when they were a Fishing, I had like to have let the Boat sink. Having labour'd very hard all Day, at Night I was exceeding sleepy; and, while they were throwing their Nets from the Shore, I fell fast asleep. At length the Boat was almost full of Water; which coming over me as I lay, presently wak'd me.

I got

JAMES WYATT. 119

I got up in a great Surprize, and began to bail out the Water as fast as I could. I work'd very hard, and before they came into her, I got out all the Water, so that they knew nothing of the Matter, for if they had, they would have punish'd me severely.

They always fish in the Night, towards the latter End of the Year; because they say the Fish are more shy then, than they are at any other Time.

As I frequently carried them to and from the Boat, when the Shores were stoney, as before observ'd; it happen'd one Day, that one of the Doctors of the Alcoran (as the *Moors* call'd him) came to the Island where we were for Fish. When he had got as many as he thought proper, we took him back to the Continent. The Shore where he was to Land being very stoney, I was order'd to jump into the Water, take the Doctor on my Shoulders, and carry him ashore.

The Boat was about a Quarter of a Mile from the Land; and the Water, when I jump'd in, about Breast high. My Feet being very sore, and the Doctor on my Shoulders, the Stones hurt them prodigiously; and at length I fell into the Water, and the Doctor with me.

As the Doctor could not swim, he had like to have been drowned; though the Water, as before observ'd, did not come up to his Neck. But he was so terribly frighted with the Fall, that when he got upon his Feet he could not stand,

120 *The Life and Adventures of*

stand, but fell backwards again into the Water.

As soon as the Doctor got to Land, he draw'd a Circle, and put me in the Middle of it. He then said something in *Arabick*, but what it was I did not know.

When the *Moors* got me back to the Island, they beat me terribly for letting the Doctor fall into the Water. They likewise kept me without Fish or Water for some Time; and threaten'd to kill me, if ever I did the like again.

One Time when we went to the Continent to get Water, the *Moors* that liv'd thereon wanting it themselves, would not permit us to have any. The *Moors* that went with us insisted they would have some, as indeed they wanted it very much. At length they went to fighting about it; and the *Moors* that belong'd to the Island gaining the Victory, they got some Water, and brought it away in their Boat.

We were only Spectators, during the Engagement; and it was very well for us that we did not fight, for our standing neuter was the Cause of our Deliverance.

The *Moors* on the Continent, seeing we did not assist those of the Island against them, and being vex'd that they had overcome them, sent to the King of the Gum Coast about us; and acquainted him, that the *Moors* on the Island had got some *European* Prisoners.

Upon this an Officer, whom they call'd *Abede*, came to our Island, and nineteen Men,

JAMES WYATT. 121

Men with him. He showed the *Moors* a Piece of Paper, and told them he was come to fetch us away. The *Moors* talk'd a good while with him; but, as they talk'd *Arabick*, I did not understand them: However, I have since found that they wanted to keep our Carpenter, who was exceeding useful to them.

At length, to our great Grief, the Officer and his Men went away without us. As soon as he was gone, some of the *Moors* took *Swannick*, our Carpenter, to another Island to Fish; and brought him not again, during our Stay on the Island.

This, as we afterwards found, was for fear the Officer should return to the Island, and take him by Force; for they valu'd him more than all of us besides.

In about sixteen Days the Officer return'd; and, the Carpenter being still absent, he took us five, and we never saw *Swannick*, or heard of him any more.

Though we were very glad we were going to be releas'd from this miserable Way of Living, yet we were heartily sorry to leave him behind us; as in all Probability he might never have an Opportunity of being releas'd, but end his Days in Slavery among the *Moors*.

I have already said something concerning the Barrenness of the Island to which the *Moors* took us, when they first discovered us. I shall now, before I leave this Island, give a brief Description of it, and of its Inhabitants:

122 *The Life and Adventures of*

habitants: After which I shall proceed to give an Account of our-travelling by Land near three Hundred Miles over a sandy Defart, to the River *Senegal*; and likewise of every Thing that occur'd, worthy Notice, till I arriv'd safe in *England*.

The Island which I am now going to leave, and which these *Moors*, who live by Fishing, chiefly inhabit, is very barren, producing nothing but short stumpy Wood; though even that is more than the Island produced, on which we remained three Days, after we were so unfortunate to come among these People, as before observ'd.

The Soil of this Island is a light Sand, which makes it very troublesome when there is ever so little Wind stirring. The Quantity of Wood growing thereon is very trifling, being frequently at a Loss to get enough to broil our Fish, and therefore were obliged sometimes to eat them raw.

The Number of *Moors* that dwelt on this Island (which was not very large, though considerably larger than that before-mentioned) seldom exceeded an Hundred, and frequently not so many; for, when they had caught a large Quantity of Fish, some of them used to go to the Continent to sell them, and purchase those Commodities they most wanted, so that they were sometimes several Days before they returned to the Island; nevertheless, this was their Place of Settlement.

I am really surprized at these *Moors* Manner of Living, which is very different from those

on

JAMES WYATT. 123

on the Continent ; for these have nothing but Fish and Water, at the most plentiful Times ; but those, it is well known, have commonly Plenty of most of the Necessaries of Life ; and yet, as far as I could observe, these *Moors* on the Island enjoy a better State of Health than the others.

As to their Persons, they are strong, sturdy Men, well proportion'd, and extremely active. They are not black, but very tawney. The Women are the same, and endure Hardships almost as well as the Men.

Before I proceed to give an Account of the Religion of the *Moors*, I shall speak a few Words concerning Capt. *Amer*, who I have before had occasion to mention several Times : And I really believe, that he was the Cause of all the ill Usage we receiv'd from the *Moors*. He frequently amus'd us with fair Promises, but hardly ever perform'd any ; he was the Cause of our being stripp'd, as before observ'd ; it was through him that we were detain'd Prisoners, made Slaves, and suffered so severely, after we had escaped to the Continent ; and all this he did, though he had given us repeated Assurances of his Friendship.

The *Moors*, to do them Justice, never used us ill (except detaining us on the Island, which was through Capt. *Amer*) till we had endeavour'd to escape, but gave us whatever they could spare ; what that was, I have before related : And I believe they never had used us ill, had not Capt. *Amer* perswaded them to it.

124 *The Life and Adventures of*

This Capt. *Amer* was not a *Moor*, as I was inform'd, but born in *Portugal*. How he came to live among them I never could learn, though I endeavoured to come to the Knowledge of it. He had liv'd there a great while; and, as he understood Fishing, and the Manner of bartering Fish for other Commodities, he was very much valu'd by the *Moors*; so that he had it in his Power to serve us, had he been disposed thereto.

He likewise understood some of the *African*, and many of the *European* Languages. He told us his Name was *Amer*; and, having been formerly a Captain, he was usually call'd Capt. *Amer*: But I cannot tell whether there was a Word of Truth in this, as he had so often deceived us.

I come now to speak of the Religion of the *Moors*, which is *Mahometism*; and, being partly the same as that profess'd by several of the Southern and Eastern Nations, viz. on the Continent of *Africa*, in *Turkey*, *Persia*, &c. (which are very remote, and but little known to *Europeans*) I shall therefore give a brief, but particular Account thereof. It is called *Mahometism*, from *Mahomet*, who was the first Propagator thereof. He was born at *Mecca*, in the Year 571. He was descended from *Pher Korash*, which was a Tribe greatly esteemed in that Country. The Name of his Father was *Abdollah*, and that of his Mother *Amena*.

Though he was descended of a noble Tribe; yet, in the Beginning of his Life, his Condition

dition was but mean. This was occasion'd by his Father's dying, while his Grandfather was alive; so that at the Death of his Grandfather *Abdal Morallah*, which happen'd about seven Years after, all the Wealth of the Family went among the Uncles of *Mahomet*, as he was not above nine Years old when his Grandfather died.

After the Death of his Grandfather, he was committed to the Care of one of his Uncles, named *Abu Taleb*. He being a very wealthy Merchant, brought up *Mahomet* in the Knowledge of Business; and, when he grew up, sent him with his Camels into *Syria*.

The *Mahometan* Writers tell us, that while *Mahomet* was attending his Uncle's Factors in the publick Market-place at *Bostra*, a City on the Confines of *Syria*, one *Bahira*, a learned Monk, perceiv'd a Kind of Lustre shining upon his Face. This, say they, was the Cause of *Bahira's* predicting that *Mahomet* should be a great Prophet.

But the *Mahometans* themselves differ about the Manner of *Bahira's* discovering *Mahomet*; for others affirm, that the Mark by which the Monk discovered him, was the Seal of his prophetick Mission, the Impression whereof was very wonderfully stamped between his Shoulders. This likewise is a gross Fiction of the *Mahometans*, for it was several Years after the Time they mention, before *Mahomet* became acquainted with the before-mentioned Monk.

He

126 *The Life and Adventures of*

He was about Twenty-five Years of Age, when he left the Service of his Uncle. He went from him to be Factor to one *Cadigba*, a very wealthy Widow, whom he afterwards married, and became immensely rich.

As he traded into *Egypt*, *Syria*, &c. he was very well acquainted with the Jews and Christians; and observing that they were divided into several Sects, he resolved to advance a new Religion, thinking thereby to raise himself to the Sovereignty which his Ancestors had enjoyed, and which he had been deprived of, by being left an Orphan, before his Grandfather's Death.

This *Mahomet* made no doubt of accomplishing, because the People of *Mecca* (who were Heathens, and guilty of the grossest Idolatries) began to have somewhat better Notions of Religion than formerly, which they had acquired by dealing and conversing with the Christians.

With these Views *Mahomet* fram'd a Religion, which is a Medley of Judaism, Christianity, and Paganism; and, at length, by Artifice and Force, propagated it through a great Part of the World.

But he did not suddenly become a Preacher against that Idolatry, which he had practised in common with others; for, having led a wicked and licentious Course of Life, in the Thirty-eighth Year of his Age, he began to affect Retirement, and withdrew daily into a solitary Cave, not far from *Mecca*, call'd the
Cave

JAMES WYATT. 127

Cave of *Hira*, where he pretended to spend his Time in Fasting and Prayer.

This he did previous to his taking upon him the Character of a Reformer and Prophet. His first Attempt was to draw his Wife into a Belief of his Imposture. He frequently told her of strange Visions and Voices, which he had seen and heard, after he returned from the Cave (where it is supposed he first consulted with those who assisted him to compose his *Koran*) but she for some Time rejected them as idle Tales, or the Effect of a disturb'd Imagination.

At length, through the artful Insinuations of a fugitive Monk, she was prevail'd on to believe whatever her Husband suggested to her; being really persuaded he was called to the prophetick Office, after which she became his first Profelyte.

When he had lived two Years in a very retir'd Manner, he began to think he had acquired a sufficient Reputation for Holiness of Life; and therefore, in the fortieth Year of his Age, he began to assume the Title of, *The Apostle of God*.

For three or four Years he propagated his Religion privately among his Acquaintance. The two next Profelytes were *Zayd Ebn Hareth*, his Slave; and his Cousin *Ali, Abu Taleb's* Son.

At length he prevail'd on *Abu Beker* to become his Profelyte likewise. He was very rich, and in great Esteem with the People of *Mecca* for his Wisdom; and therefore his becoming

128 *The Life and Adventures of*

becoming one of the Disciples of *Makomet*, brought his Cause into great Reputation.

When he had gain'd these, and five others, to be his Profelytes, he began publickly to declare that he was a Prophet sent from God to turn them from the Error of Paganism, to the true Religion.

When he first made his publick Appearance as a Prophet, the People made a Scoff at him; called him *Lyar*, Impostor, Magician, &c. of which he complains in the *Koran*; so that, for some Time, he met with hardly any Thing but Contempt.

He was a Person of a very artful and insinuating Address, and knew how to apply to all Degrees of People; and, though he met with frequent Reproaches, yet he continued to preach in the publick Places of the City, under the Protection of his Uncle *Abu Taleb*.

In his Preaching, the Arguments he made use of were Promises and Threatnings. His Promises consist of a Happiness peculiarly agreeable to the Gust of his Hearers: And his Threatnings were of such a Nature as must render them as grievous, as his Promises were desirable.

In his Promises, among other Things, he tells his Followers, *they shall enter into pleasant Gardens, watered with Rivulets and Fountains, near which they shall repose themselves upon the softest Beds, adorned with Gold and precious Stones, under the Shade of Trees that shall continually yield all Manner of the most agreeable Fruits, &c.*

But

JAMES WYATT. 129

But he threatens those that will not believe his Mission, that *they should suffer an inconceivable Thirst, and should have nothing to drink but boiling and stinking Water; that they should dwell for ever in continual Fire, &c. that they should eat nothing but Briars and Thorns, and the Fruit of the Tree Zacon, which should be in their Bellies like burning Pitch, &c.*

Thus his Promises and Threatenings being well adapted to his Hearers; he either gain'd them by the one, or frighten'd them by the other, to become his Disciples.

But those who were not disposed to embrace his Religion, without farther Proof of his Mission; told him, that they could not acknowledge him for a Prophet, unless he wrought Miracles among them, as all the Prophets had done that went before him.

This perplexed him very much; and knowing he was uncapable of working any Miracles, he used to make this artful Reply, that those whom God had ordained to believe, would do it without Miracles; and those whom he had not ordained to believe, would not believe though ever so many and so great Miracles were wrought. But his not being able to work Miracles, made several of his Followers desert him.

As he found the Number of his Profelytes daily decreased, he retired to *Medina*, which is another City of *Arabia*. Here he took the Sword in Hand, pretending that since God had sent *Moses* and *Jesus* with Miracles, and
Men

130 *The Life and Adventures of*

Men did not regard their Doctrine ; he had now, in the last Place, sent him without Miracles, to force them to Obedience by the Power of the Sword.

So that those Writers who amuse us with idle Stories of *Mahomet's* bringing up Pigeons to pick Tares out of his Ears, to deceive his Followers, telling them they brought him Messages from Heaven ; with many others of the like Nature, are entirely without Foundation, *Mahomet* never pretending to any, but propagated it by Force, when his Arguments were ineffectual.

He first began with plundering the Caravans which went from *Mecca* to *Medina*, whither he had flown for Refuge. He afterwards fought sundry Battles with the *Arabs*, *Syrians*, &c. with various Success.

He push'd on the War against the Jewish *Arabs* with great Vigour ; and, in the Year 628, having taken the City of *Chaibar*, he lodged at the House of one of the principal Inhabitants. Among other things at Supper, there was a Shoulder of Mutton, which the Gentleman's Daughter had poisoned, in order to try whether he was a Prophet or not, as she afterwards acknowledged. If he was a Prophet, she concluded he would know the Meat was poisoned, and consequently would receive no Harm : but, if he was not a Prophet, she imagined that she should do the World a particular Service, in ridding it of such an Impostor.

Some

JAMES WYATT. 131

Some of the *Mahometans* tell us of a Miracle on this Occasion (but that is what *Mahomet* never pretended to, as before observed) that is, that the Shoulder of Mutton told *Mahomet* it was poisoned, and bid him not eat any of it.

But this does not at all agree with what happen'd at that Time; for *Basfer* eating heartily of it, fell down dead upon the Spot. And though *Mahomet* escaped better, having but just tasted it, yet he was never rightly well afterwards; and, it is thought, died of it at the End of three Years in the City of *Medina*.

After this he fought several Battles, and entirely vanquish'd the Pagan *Arabs*. He then plunder'd them of all they had, which was very considerable, pulled down their Temples, and destroyed their Images.

He afterwards turned his Arms against the *Syrians*, made several Princes become Tributaries to him, and returned to *Medina* with his victorious Army.

When he had established his Religion throughout *Arabia*, and some Part of *Syria*, sent Lieutenants into different Parts to govern in his Name, likewise pulled down their Temples, &c. he undertook a Pilgrimage to *Mecca*.

On the Tenth Day of the Month *Dulhaga*, he enter'd the City, where vast Multitudes of People resorted to him; and, after he had instructed them in his new Law, he returned to *Medina*. This Pilgrimage is call'd by his Followers,

132 *The Life and Adventures of*

Followers, *The Pilgrimage of Valediction*, being the last *Mahomet* ever made.

In a short Time after he returned to *Medina*, he found himself very ill, occasioned (as is said) by the Poison he had taken three Years before; which, working in his Body, at length brought him to his Bed, after which he died in about ten or twelve Days.

When he died he was just Sixty-three Years old, according to the *Arabian* Account; though he was but Sixty-one, according to ours.

During the Twenty-three Years of his pretended Apostleship, he continued only Thirteen at *Mecca*; the last Ten he spent at *Medina*, in which Time he laid the Foundation of the greatest Revolution that ever happen'd in the World.

He frequently pretended to Visions, and Revelations from Heaven; some of which were so very ridiculous, that even his Followers did not believe them. His predominant Passions were Lust and Ambition. He was buried at *Medina*. The Story of his Coffin being suspended in the Air by a Loadstone, is without the least Foundation.

Having given some Account of the Life of *Mahomet*, I shall now proceed to speak of his Doctrine, which is contained in the *Koran*, (or *Alcoran*, as it is usually call'd) and is the System of Religion now observed and practised by the *Moors*.

The Word *Koran*, or *Alcoran*, signifies *The Reading*. This Book is so called in Imitation

JAMES WYATT. 133

Imitation of the Christians, who call the Old and New Testament, *The Scripture*, or *Writing*.

The Persons who assisted *Mahomet* in the composing of the *Alcoran*, are said to be *Abdia Ben Salon*, a *Persian Jew*, whose Name he changed, in order to make it the more suitable to the Language of the *Arabians*, into *Abdollah Ebn Salem*; and one *Bahira*, a Christian Monk (sometimes call'd *Sergius*) who has been mention'd before.

The *Mahometans* are taught in this Book, says Mr. *Gordon*, the Acknowledgement of one God, and that *Mahomet* is his great Prophet.

It also commands Children to be obedient to their Parents, and approves of Love to our Neighbour.

It enjoins Abstinence from Swines Flesh and Blood, and such Animals as die of themselves.

It promises to Mussulmans (or true Believers) all Manner of sensual Pleasures in a future State.

It allows of an unavoidable Fatality in every Thing, and favours the Opinion of Tutelar Angels.

It acknowledges that the Writings, both of the Prophets and Apostles, were divinely inspired; but alledges, that they are so corrupted by Jews and Christians, that they cannot be admitted for the Rule of Faith.

They are taught to believe, that of all the revealed Institutions in the World, those in the *Alcoran* are only divine and perfect.

M

These,

134 *The Life and Adventures of*

These, with several others (some of which are better pass'd over in Silence) are the *Mahometans* Rule of Faith; from which it evidently appears, that *Mahometism* is a Medley of Paganism, Judaism, and Christianity, as before observed; by which Means the grand Impostor (its Founder) did cunningly imagine to gain Profelytes of all Professions.

As the *Alcoran* is the *Mahometans* Rule of Faith and Manners, let us more particularly consider its Precepts, says Mr. Gordon, and that chiefly as they relate to the principal Heads thereof, viz, Circumcision, Fasting, Prayer, Alms, Pilgrimage, and Abstinence from Wine.

I. *Circumcision*. Of the various Sacraments of the Old and New Testament, they admit only of Circumcision. This they say is absolutely necessary for every Mussulman, and esteem it impossible to obtain Salvation without it; therefore they are careful to perform the same, and celebrate the Performance thereof with very great Solemnity.

II. *Fasting*. But particularly that very extraordinary Fast which is call'd *Ramadam*, and which is observ'd every ninth Month, and is of a whole Month's Continuance. During this Month they neither eat or drink till the Sun goes down; they abstain from all worldly Business; they smoke no Tobacco, which they are very fond of; they abstain from all Recreations; live very reserved austere Lives; and they spend most of their Time in their Mosques,

or

JAMES WYATT. 135

or Places of Worship. They believe, that the Gates of Heaven stand open, and the Gates of Hell are shut, during this Month of *Ramadam*.

III. *Prayer*. As the *Mahometans* are taught by their Prophet, that this Duty is the Key of Paradise and the very Pillar of Religion, therefore it is in very great Esteem among them, and they are frequent at their Devotion. They are oblig'd to pray five Times every Day at least; and are never to fail of that Number, though their worldly Business should be ever so urgent.

IV. *Alms*. They frequently bestow considerable Sums on the Poor, and are commonly very charitable to Persons in Distress.

V. *Pilgrimage*. Every Mussulman is bound to go a Pilgrimage to *Mecca* once in his Life, or else he must send a Deputy for him. They resort thither in vast Multitudes, being frequently thirty or forty Thousand in Number. The Sultan appoints a Commander in Chief over them, in order to redress any Disorders that may happen on the Road. This Officer is follow'd by a Camel, which has the *Alcoran* on its Back. It is covered with Cloth of Gold, and the sanctified Animal, on its Return, is adorn'd with Garlands of Flowers; and for the remaining Part of its Life, is exempted from Labour.

VI. *Abstinence from Wine*. This is another Precept of the *Alcoran*; but, it is said, they do not observe this so strictly as any of

136 *The Life and Adventures of*

the former; for many of the richest Sort are great Lovers of the Juice of the Grape, and will drink of it in private, though they refrain from it in publick.

Having spoke of the Moral Duties of the *Mahometans*, I proceed in the next Place to give an Account of their Marriages.

The *Moors* having but little Conversation with Women, except their Slaves, or those of their own Family, consequently are seldom in Love with Women for their Wit. They therefore commonly take them on the Recommendation of others.

When a young Fellow is in Love, he sometimes goes to a Friend's House, and gets the Mistress thereof to send for the Person belov'd and her Mother, under the Notion of a Visit. He is concealed in some convenient Place, where he may hear and see her at Pleasure, during her Stay.

This he esteems as a very particular Favour; and, after she is gone, comes from the Place of his Concealment, and returns a great many Thanks for the same, promising to do any of his Friend's Family the like Kindness, when his Circumstances permit.

If he does not like her, after he has seen and heard her, the Affair ends here: But if he does, he gets some of his Relations to ask her Father's Consent: Then they bargain (it is said) about the Price of the Daughter, which the intended Son-in-Law is to pay to her Father. It is commonly paid in Cattle, or other Things,

JAMES WYATT. 137

Things, according to the Circumstances of the Husband.

When both Parties are agreed, they get the Marriage Contract drawn up before the Cadee, or Judge, and Persons are chosen to be Witnesses thereof. After this the Relations of the Bride and Bridegroom, eat and make merry, and appoint a Day for the Performance of the Ceremony.

The Women have the Bride to a Bath (it is said) if she be of any considerable Family. When she is bath'd, they put on her Cloaths, perfume her Hair, &c. after which they conduct her to her Husband; who has been likewise had to a Bath, and dress'd by the Men.

When all Friends are met, an Entertainment is provided, and the Company make merry. The Bride and Bridegroom receive the Complements of the Company; which usually consist in Wishes of a handsome Family, Abundance of Children, and all the Happiness and Prosperity the World can afford them. At Night the Company take their Leave, after which the Marriage is consummated.

Having given a short Account of their Manner of Marrying, I come now to speak of their Diversions, Funerals, &c.

The *Moors* seldom play at any Game but Draughts and Chefs. They hardly ever play for Money, so very rarely differ about who wins or who loses, using it only by Way of Amusement. They are very serious at Play, and seldom speak oftner than the Game requires.

138 *The Life and Adventures of*

quires. Their other Pastimes are Hunting, Fishing, &c.

The *Mahometans* seldom travel into Christian Countries, because there are many Things that render them unclean; and they have not the Opportunity in those Countries of purifying themselves by Ablution, or Washing.

When a *Mahometan* dies, the Men seldom weep over him, because they would not express any Regret at the Accomplishment of the Divine Will. They consider, they say, the Necessity of the Thing, and hope to see him again in Paradise.

The Women, on the contrary, follow the Corps in Tears; because they are not admitted (according to the *Mahometan* Law) into the Abodes of the Blessed, and therefore will never see the beloved Person any more.

These Women scream as loud as possible; scratch their Arms, Hands, Face, and tear their Hair. They likewise fall, from Time to Time, as though they had fell down in a Fit, through Grief. They catch up Handfuls of Earth or Sand, and throw it on their Head and Face. They run, stop, and shew sundry Tokens of Grief and Despair.

In this Manner they carry the Deceas'd to the appointed Burial-place. If he was a Person of Worth, he has a Burial-place for himself and his Family, which is enclosed like a Garden, and has Variety of Flowers, &c. growing therein. He has likewise a Monument erected to his Memory.

If

JAMES WYATT. 139

If he was a Person of but indifferent Circumstances, he is carried to a publick Burial-place much in the same Manner; but, instead of a Monument, he has only a Head and Foot-Stone, something resembling those that are to be found among us.

They return Home, much in the same Manner they went. The Men retire, perfectly resigned to the Will of God, after they have several Times said Words to this Effect: *God have Mercy on him; Providence would have it thus; such was the Destiny which the Almighty had writ upon his Head, and his Hour was come.*

They afterwards pay their Complements to the Relations of the Deceas'd, assuring them that they take a large Share in their Affliction, and then repair to their own Habitations.

Thus have I given the Reader the best Account I could of the Religion, Ceremonies, Diversions, &c. of the *Moors*; and which is, at least, such a one as will render him capable of framing a tolerable Idea thereof. I shall now proceed, according to Promise, to give an Account of whatever happen'd, that is worthy Notice, from my leaving the Island, to my Arrival safe in *England*.

I have already mention'd, that an Officer from the King of the Gum Coast, call'd *Abede*, and nineteen Men, came to fetch us from this Island; that, when he came the second Time, the *Moors* had sent *Swannick*, our Carpenter, out of the Way, so that we never saw or heard of him any more; and that, in all Probability,
he

140 *The Life and Adventures of*

he ended his Days in Slavery among the *Moors*.

We were taken Prisoners by the *Moors* on the Seventh of *July*, 1742; and continu'd so, till the Thirteenth of *November* following: So that we remained among them for the Space of four Months and six Days, during which Time we underwent inexpressible Hardships. *But the Time of our Deliverance is now at Hand.*

On the Thirteenth of *November*, 1742, as before-mention'd, we left this Island; where we had been held so long, and so unjustly in Bondage. Every Thing being ready for our Departure, we got into the Boat, and the *Moors* row'd us to the Continent.

When they had row'd to the Shore, the Officer and his Men got out, and we follow'd them, being heartily glad we were deliver'd out of the Hands of the *Moors*. As soon as we had set our Feet on the Continent, we lifted up our Hands to Heaven, and gave Thanks for our Deliverance.

The Boat in which the *Moors* brought us to the Continent, was that we escaped in from the *Canary* Islands. As soon as they had landed us, they row'd back to the Island; and we never saw, or desire to see them any more.

We were well provided with Fish and Water, which the Officer took Care to get; as he knew we had a sandy Desert to travel over, where there was neither Tree or Hedge for near three Hundred Miles: However, there
was

JAMES WYATT. 141

was sometimes Water, which we got by digging Holes in the Sand, in the Manner before related, and which was a very great Refreshment to us.

We set out very chearfully, not regarding the Hardships we had to go through before we got to *Senegal*. We travell'd the Remainder of the Day, without any Thing material happening. At Night we had some Fish and Water, and went to Rest extreamly well satisfied.

The Fourteenth of *November*, soon after Sun-rising, we got up, and pursu'd our Journey to *Senegal*. We walk'd till near Noon, and then sat down, eat some Fish, and drank some Water. Being very well refreshed, we walk'd gently on till towards Night, then sat down again, being weary, and refreshed us with Fish and Water.

This Night, being got farther on the Continent, we did not all go to Rest, as we had done the Night before; but some watched, and some slept, for fear of being devour'd by Wild Beasts: However, nothing extraordinary happen'd, and we neither heard or saw any Wild Beasts for this Night.

The Fifteenth of *November*, early in the Morning, we got up, and walk'd on softly till Noon. We then sat down, and made a delicious Meal of Fish and Water, being all very hungry.

After we had well refreshed ourselves, we got up, and walk'd on. Towards Evening we came to a Kind of Village, where there were
several

142 *The Life and Adventures of*

several *Moors* that had Huts. They were very kind to us, and gave us some Wood, on which we broiled all our Fish, in order to save them as long as possible, during our Journey.

We lay in their Huts all Night, and rested very well; not as yet having enter'd the Desert, which we were oblig'd to travel over, before we got to the River *Senegal*.

The Sixteenth of *November*, we rose about Five or Six o'Clock in the Morning. We took our Leave of the *Moors*; after which, we walk'd on till about Noon, and then sat down to refresh ourselves.

After some Time we got up, and walk'd on. We walk'd till Evening; when, being come to the Entrance of the Desert, we chose out a Place for Rest: But, as there might be Danger here, some watch'd and some slept, relieving each other by Turns. This Night nothing material happen'd.

The Seventeenth of *November*, we got up very early. We walk'd on; and, in our Way, got some good Water. This we found in Sand-Holes, as usual. About Noon we eat some broil'd Fish, and drank some Water; after which, we walk'd on till Night, and then lay down as usual, some watching while the others slept. This Night nothing happen'd very extraordinary.

The Eighteenth of *November*, we rose, eat, and lay in the usual Manner. Nothing material happen'd.

The

JAMES WYATT. 143

The Nineteenth of *November*, we rose, eat, and lay as usual. Nothing extraordinary happen'd.

The Twentieth of *November*, we rose, eat, and lay as usual.

This Night we were terribly frighten'd at the Noise of sundry Wild Beasts; such as Lyons, Tygers, Leopards, &c. however we saw none, but their Roaring was very shocking to hear.

The Twenty-first, Twenty-second, Twenty-third, and Twenty-fourth of *November*, we rose, eat, and lay as usual. Nothing very material happen'd.

The Twenty-fifth of *November*, we rose very early in the Morning. This Day we got some more Water, which we began to be in great want of, and drank very plentifully with our Fish at Noon, which refresh'd us very much. At Night lay as usual. Heard the Noise of several Wild Beasts, and were very much frighten'd.

The Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh of *November*, we rose, eat, and lay as usual. Heard the Noise of Wild Beasts in the Night; but it seem'd at a pretty great Distance, so that we were not greatly alarmed thereat.

The Twenty-eighth of *November*, we rose about Five o'Clock in the Morning, and walk'd on till Noon; we then sat down, eat some Fish, and rested ourselves, being very weary. We were now in great want of Water, having not above two Quarts among us all. We were
still

144 *The Life and Adventures of*

still in the Defart; and, at Night, heard a dreadful Roaring of Lyons, Tygers, &c. which surpriz'd us very much. As the Noise seem'd to be very near us, we were under continual Apprehensions of being devour'd by these savage Beasts; however, towards Day-Break the Noise ceased, and our Fears vanished. We were all up best Part of this Night.

The Twenty-ninth of *November*, we rose about Six o'Clock. We walk'd till near Noon, and then eat a little Fish, but had no Water, and the Fish stunk. We always eat sparingly, lest our Fish should fail, and seldom made above one Meal a Day. At Night lay as usual. Nothing material happen'd.

The Thirtieth of *November*, we rose in the Morning very early, and walk'd on, without any Refreshment, till Two or Three o'Clock in the Afternoon; by which Time we had got over the Defart, and had come to some of the *Moors* Huts, where we got Fish and Water. They were very kind to us, and we continu'd in their Huts all Night. Nothing material happen'd.

The First, Second, Third, and Fourth of *December*, we rose, eat, and drank as usual; but, being out of Danger of Wild Beasts, there was no need of any to watch in the Night, so we all went to Rest. Nothing very material happen'd.

The Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth of *December*, we rose, eat, and lay as usual. Nothing material happen'd, during these four Days,

JAMES WYATT. 145

Days, except our Officer's getting dry'd Fish and Water of the Inhabitants.

The Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth of *December*, we rose, eat, and lay as usual. Nothing material happened.

The Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, and Sixteenth of *December*, we rose, eat, and lay as usual. Got some more Fish and Water of the Inhabitants.

The Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, and Twentieth of *December*, we rose, &c. as usual. Nothing material happened.

The Twenty-first and Twenty-second of *December*, we rose, eat, and lay as usual. Nothing material.

The Twenty-third of *December*, we rose very early in the Morning, being almost come to *Senegal*. About Noon we sat down and refreshed ourselves; and, about Three or Four o'Clock in the Afternoon, we arrived safe at *Senegal*.

As soon as we came there, *Abede* dispatched a Negroe, as a Messenger to the *French* Factory (as I was informed) to let them know the *European* Prisoners were arrived.

We were forty Days from the Time we left the *Moors* on the Island, before we arrived here; during which Time, we underwent some Hardships, but we were heartily glad we were deliver'd out of their Hands.

When *Abede* first came to our Island, and went without us, I have mentioned that he returned again in sixteen Days. I take Notice of this, lest the Reader should think he we. t

N.

to

146 *The Life and Adventures of*

to *Senegal*, and returned again in that Space of Time: But he only went to the King of the Gum Coast; which was but a Trifle of a Journey, in Comparison of ours to *Senegal*.

While the Negroe was gone to the Factory, to acquaint them of our Arrival, we continued at a Place call'd the Country of the *Malanquins*.

Here the *Moors* killed an Ox, and gave us the Head and Guts, with which we made a very hearty Meal. We broiled them on the Sand, but had no Bread with them, and it was the first Flesh we had eaten for upwards of six Months.

Some Time after we got some Caravansas. Having eaten no Pulse for several Months, we hardly knew when we had enough. But we suffer'd severely for it, for we were presently afterwards taken extreamly ill.

The *Moors* seeing we were very bad, gave us the Urine of Goats to drink, here being Plenty of Cattle in this Country. This purged us prodigiously, and we remained ill for several Hours; but, when it had work'd off, we grew speedily well.

We continued here five Days, during which Time we liv'd pretty well. We had Goats Flesh, Rice, Caravansas, &c. but we had not yet tasted any Bread.

On the Twenty-eighth of *December* the Negroe return'd. He came in a Sloop which was sent from the Factory (as I was inform'd) on Purpose to fetch us.

JAMES WYATT. 147

As soon as he was put ashore, and had acquainted us that a Sloop was come for us, we immediately went on board. The Captain of the Sloop was extremely kind to us, and used us in a very obliging and courteous Manner.

As the Negroe had acquainted the Gentlemen at the Factory that we were naked, they had sent Cloaths by the Captain for us. When he had given them to us, and we had put them on, he gave us an elegant Entertainment, consisting of Fowls, fresh Meat, Wine, &c. Things that we had almost forgot the Taste of, it having been so long since we had eaten any thereof.

When we first put on our Cloaths, we knew not, for some Time, how to behave in them, having been without them so long; and we were very uneasy in them, not knowing hardly how to walk, or do any Thing, when we had got them on. We likewise put them on as clumsily; so that those who had not known we were *Europeans*, would certainly have concluded we had lived among the *Savages* all our Lives, and that these were the first Cloaths we had ever wore.

We soon found the Difference between being among *Moors* and among Christians. With the *Moors* we had nothing but Fish and Water; except ill Usage, which was worst of all. Here we had Fowls, fresh Meat, Bread, Wine, &c. but above all, the Captain was prodigiously obliging, and express'd a particular Concern for our Misfortunes.

148 *The Life and Adventures of*

He desir'd us, after we had well refresh'd ourselves, to favour him with an Account of our Manner of Living, &c. among the *Moors* of the Island, from whence we came. We did so ; and, when he had heard it, he was perfectly astonish'd to think how we underwent those Hardships which we had related. He told us, that had he endur'd but Half those Wants that we had, he should certainly have been found no longer among the Living ; that he was extreamly glad we were delivered from such a cruel Bondage ; and that he esteem'd himself particularly fortunate, that he had it in his Power to do us any Good.

We spent the Remainder of the Day in Conversation ; and, at Night, the Captain entertained us with an elegant Supper, after which we went to Rest.

The Twenty-ninth of *December*, we rose very early in the Morning, being exceedingly refresh'd ; and, before Noon, arriv'd at the Factory, where we were kindly received.

Soon after we arriv'd here, the Gentlemen paid Ten Pounds for each of us (as I was inform'd) which *Abede* had charg'd for bringing us thither, and with which he purchased blue Linnen Cloth. Soon after he had got the Cloth, he and his Men return'd Home, and we never saw them any more.

The Castle of *Senegal* is but a very weak Place, being built with Mud Walls, and on a very sandy Foundation. It is often out of Repair ; and, when it is, the Slaves help to do it up in the best Manner they can.

It stands about two Leagues from the Mouth of the River *Senegal*, on a little Island, about a Mile from the *Barbary* Shore, and much about the same Distance from the *Guinea* Shore, the River *Senegal* parting them both. There is likewise an Hospital on this Island, which makes a better Appearance than the Cattle; but its Situation is not thought so proper, for a Place of Defence.

We continu'd at the Factory at *Senegal* one Month wanting one Day, *viz.* from the Twenty-ninth of *December*, the Day of our Arrival, to the Twenty-eighth of *January* following, which was the Day of our Departure; during which Time we were very well us'd, and wanted for none of the Necessaries of Life, for which we were extreamly thankful.

The *French* at this Factory trade for Gold Dust, Slaves, Elephants Teeth, Gum, &c. of which I shall have Occasion to speak hereafter.

Though we were very well us'd here (as before observ'd) yet as there was an *English* Factory at *Gambo* (or *Gambia*) we intreated the Gentlemen to let us go to it; as we might, in all Probability, meet with *English* Ships there that would carry us where our particular Affairs requir'd.

To this they readily consented; and, the Twenty-eighth of *January*, 1742-3, the *French* sent us in a Sloop for *Gambo*. When we went on board, some of the Gentlemen took their Leave of us in a very affectionate Manner,

150 *The Life and Adventures of*

ner, and made us a Present of such Things as they thought we most wanted ; which, though they were of no great Value, yet it look'd friendly, and at that Time was of great Service to us.

The Twenty-ninth of *January* we kept our Course for *Gamba*. Nothing very material happen'd.

The Thirtieth of *January*, at Night, we came to an Anchor near the Island of *Goree* ; which is one of the strongest, for the Bigness of it, I ever saw. It has Guns quite round it, and is not above a Mile and a Half in Circumference.

In this Island (which towards the Water is a hard, stoney Rock) the *French* keep their Slaves. Here is also a Garrison of about two Hundred Men, who (it is said) are commonly well provided with Ammunition, and would be able to defend it against a Thousand, the Place being very strong both by Nature and Art.

The Thirty-first of *January* we arriv'd at the *English* Factory at *Gambo*. We took our Leave of the *French* Captain, and return'd him a great many Thanks for the Favours we had receiv'd. He parted with us in a very friendly Manner ; wish'd that we might get a Passage to *England*, or where else we had a Desire to go ; and, if ever we ventur'd to Sea again, that we might meet with better Success.

After

JAMES WYATT. 153

After we parted with the Captain, we went to *St. James's Fort*, where we were kindly receiv'd by the Governor, whose Name (I think) was *Orpy*. There were several other *Engliss* Gentlemen here, who us'd us very kindly, and entertain'd us in a handsome Manner. I shall give an Account of the *Fort*, &c. hereafter.

As these Gentlemen were curious to know how we escap'd from the *Spaniards*, and the Manner of our Living afterwards among the *Moors* (with which we had briefly acquainted them) we at length gave them a full Account thereof, at their particular Request. They were very much surpriz'd to think we were alive, after the numerous Hardships we had related; and assur'd us, that they could not have thought it possible for any Men to undergo the Hardships we had.

The First of *February* I went on board the *Robert*, Capt. *Dent*, Commander, lying in *Gambo River*. He was hir'd by the *African* Company, and was laden with Gum Arabick, Elephants Teeth, Bees-wax, &c. I told the Captain our Case, and that I wanted to come to *England*; upon which he kindly promis'd me, or all of us (if we were so dispos'd) our Passage to *England*, gratis, provided we would work our Way Home.

When I went ashore, I acquainted Capt. *Winter* with the Captain's kind Offer; and told him, that I was sure Capt. *Dent* would not desire him to work, as he knew he was a Gentleman.

152 *The Life and Adventures of*

Gentleman, and had not been us'd to it. He reply'd, that he was very much oblig'd to Capt. *Dent* for the Favour intended him, but that his Affairs would not permit him to accept thereof, because he had Business of great Consequence to transact at *Jamaica*; and therefore was oblig'd, if possible, to go there before he came to *England*.

When Capt. *Winter* had acquainted me with his Intention of going to *Jamaica* before he came to *England*, I ask'd my other Fellow-Sufferers whether they would come with me to *England*, and told them what Capt. *Dent* had offer'd.

To this they answer'd, that as they had no particular Business, or Friends in *England*, and were destitute of Money, they thought it would be better for them to wait at *Gambo*, where they were well provided for, till some Ship arriv'd that was going to the *West-Indies*; that when they were there, they should meet with Ships enough that wanted Hands, and would pay them well for working her Home; so that then, when they came to *England*, they should have something to help themselves.

I endeavour'd all I could to persuade them to come to *England* with me; but, finding it to no Purpose, I went to Capt. *Dent* and told him that I would come on board as soon as he was ready to sail, but that the others were not for coming to *England* as yet.

Before

JAMES WYATT. 153

Before I proceed to give the Reader any farther Account concerning myself, I shall finish that of my Fellow-Sufferers ; who parted with me at *Gambo*, some to get Money in the *West Indies*, before they came to *England* ; and Capt. *Winter*, to transact some Business of Importance at *Jamaica*.

I am inform'd, that two of my Fellow-Sufferers stayed at *Gambo*, viz. *Smith* and *Newell* ; what became of them afterwards, I know not.

As to Capt. *Winter*, he, and *Robert Larder* went in a Schooner that lay at *Gambo*, and was going to *Jamaica*. One Capt. *Ball* was the Commander, but the Name of the Vessel I know not. It prov'd a very unfortunate Voyage, for the Ship was cast away, and every one of them were drowned.

Capt. *Winter* was a very good-natur'd, worthy Gentleman. He was never very fortunate, but bore the Weight of his Misfortunes with an exemplary Patience. In the extream Part of his Sufferings, among the *Moors* (a severe *Time of Tryal* indeed) he never let fall any Expressions unworthy a Gentleman ; but behav'd himself like a Man, and like a Christian.

It was owing to his Conduct that we overcame the *Moors*, and escap'd to the Continent ; and, though we were so unfortunate as to be afterwards taken and had back, yet that does not lessen his Character : For we were resolv'd

to

154 *The Life and Adventures of*

to escape, if possible, and for that Purpose put ourselves under his Direction.

I was very much concern'd, when I heard the News of this Gentleman's being drowned; for I had a very great Regard for him, and heartily wish'd he had come with us to *England*. But who would do amiss, could they foresee what will come to pass?

There were seven of us came from the *Canary Islands*, and were taken by the *Moors*, as before observ'd, viz. Capt. Robert Winter, Mr. Thomas Burroughs his Mate, John Swanwick Carpenter, William Smith, Robert Larder, William Newell, and myself. Of these seven, only four survived, viz. John Swanwick our Carpenter, left among the *Moors*; William Newell, and William Smith, left at *Gambo*; and myself, what became of me, the Reader will hear hereafter: The other three, viz. Capt. Robert Winter and Robert Larder, were drowned going to *Jamaica*; and Mr. Burroughs was kill'd in our Engagement with the *Moors*, which has been already related.

Having mentioned what became of all my Companions in Affliction, I now proceed, before I leave *Gambo*, to give some Account of it, and of our Trade with the Inhabitants of *Guinea*, for Gold Dust, Slaves, Elephants Teeth, Gum, Bees-Wax, &c.

The River *Gambo*, is a very large, spacious River, and is navigable for small Sloops near

JAMES WYATT. 155

two Hundred Leagues, the Tide reaching near that Space from the Mouth thereof.

About ten Leagues up this River lies *James Island*, which is the chief Settlement belonging to the *English Royal African Company*. It is situated near the Middle of the River, being much about a League to the nearest Shore.

This Island is about a Mile in Circumference, at low Water. There is a very strong Fort built thereon, which commands the River every Way, so that hardly any Thing can pass without their Permission. The *French* are oblig'd to ask Leave, whenever they want to go above this Fort for Wood, &c. which (it is said) the *English* Governor seldom denies in Time of Peace.

The Governor, chief Merchants, Factors, &c. live in the Fort; the Store-Houses are under some of the Apartments, and are esteem'd very good ones.

This River is exceeding pleasant, having for the most Part a level Shore, with Trees growing thereon; and, between them, open Grounds which produces Plenty of Rice, and serves the Cattle for Pasture in the dry Season.

The Soil in some Places is hard and stoney; in others a light Sand; and in others a greasy Clay.

I come now to speak of the Trade which the *Europeans* carry on with the People of *Africa*.

I. Of

156 *The Life and Adventures of*

L. Of the Gold Trade. This is commonly brought to the *Europeans* in little Pieces which they call Bars. They are thick in the Middle and turn'd sometimes into kind of Rings, and are of different Sizes and Value; some being worth Twenty, Thirty, or Forty Shillings each, but others not near so much.

But they do not always bring it in this Form, or indeed in any particular Shape; for sometimes they bring it in little Bits of different Forms, not much bigger than Pins Heads, and some are not near so big.

There is still another Sort, which is smaller than the other, being not much bigger than small Particles of Sand. These two latter Sorts, are called Gold Dust, and are wash'd from the Mountains when the Rains are very excessive; so that there must be many Mines of Gold in the Mountains in *Guinea*, but the *Europeans* cannot discover that the Inhabitants have open'd any. Yet there may be several Mines open'd, for aught they can tell, there being almost a constant Supply of Gold brought to trade with, and the *Africans* are very shy of discovering the Inland Country.

For these Bars of Gold, and the Gold Dust, as they are called, they barter with the *Europeans* for *English* Spirits, Cotton, Corals, Chrystals, Sealing-Wax, Pipes, &c. and the *Europeans* gain greatly by this Trade, though not so much as formerly; for the Negroes begin now to know the Value of Gold, and that the others

JAMES WYATT. 157

others are but Trifles, and are sold cheap by the Tradersmen in *Europe*.

II. *The Slave Trade*. There being a great Number of petty Princes in the inland Country of *Guinea*, and they differing pretty often (either on Account of their Wives, private Quarrels, or to enlarge their Dominions) the Conqueror makes Slaves of all he takes Prisoners in Battle, whether Men, Women, or Children.

They sell these Prisoners to certain Black Merchants, who travel into the inland Country of *Guinea*, and who afterwards bring them to the *European* Settlements on the Sea Coast. These Negro Merchants, are by the *Mundingo*s call'd *Foncoes*. They sometimes bring these poor Wretches a great Way through Woods, where there is no Water to be got, but bring it with them in Skin-bags, which are made for that Purpose. These Negro Slaves are ty'd together, and commonly every one brings something on their Head, according to their Age and Strength.

When these *Foncoes* have brought them to the *Europeans*, they agree for the Price of what *European* Goods they want, and tell them what they will have for their Slaves. They commonly, it is said, value an able-bodied, stout, young Fellow, at about Five Pounds *Engliss* Money; a healthy, young Woman, at about Three Pounds Ten Shillings or Four Pounds; and Boys or Girls, if they exceed Seven or Eight Years of Age, at about

O Three

158 *The Life and Adventures of*

Three Pounds each : Those that are under, according to their Age ; though they are seldom bought very young, on Account of the Trouble there is with young Children, and the Length of Time it will be before they are fit for Service.

The Price being agreed on, the *European* Surgeon looks at all the Slaves. Those who are above Forty Years of Age are rejected as unfit for Service, and all those who are lame, or have any Sickness or Defect.

When the *European* Merchant has pitched upon those he designs to have, he gives the *Joncoes* the Goods they like in Exchange ; after which, he has them branded with a hot Iron, and kept close Prisoners till he sends them on board the Ship that is to carry them where they are to be sold again, which is frequently to some of the Plantations in *America*.

When these poor Negroes are put on board the Ship which is to carry them to be sold again, they are kept under the Deck in great Multitudes, only a few at a Time being permitted to come on the Deck to let in fresh Air, and to keep them in Health. But they are oblig'd to be thus strict with them, lest they should rise, and overcome the Ship's Crew ; which has sometimes happen'd, notwithstanding all their Caution.

These *Joncoes*, having sold their Negroes to the *Europeans* on the Sea Coast, go again into the inland Country ; where they purchase more
Slaves,

Slaves, Rice, or whatever else they have Occasion for, with the Goods the *Europeans* gave them for their Negroes: After they have barter'd these Goods for what they imagine will sell best, they return to the Sea Coast again, and trade with the *Europeans* in the Manner before mentioned.

III. *The Ivory Trade.* As there are a great Number of Elephants in this Country, consequently it produces a great deal of Ivory. Most of the Nations near the River *Gambo* trade with it for *European* Goods, as they always find a ready Sale for it. The Manner of their getting the Ivory, is either by killing the Elephants, or finding their Teeth in the Woods.

This the Inhabitants frequently do, which makes it conjectur'd, that the Elephants shed their Teeth at a certain Age: But, if this be true, they must surely be very old before they do it, for some of their Teeth weigh upwards of a Hundred and Twenty-five Pounds, and seldom any that weigh much less than a Hundred.

Certain it is, that these Animals live to a very great Age, but how long they usually live is not known; since there have been some, in those Countries where they keep them tame, that have continu'd in Families for several Generations.

These Teeth are valu'd according to their Bigness; though, if they are broken, it much lessens their Value. The yellow Teeth, it is

160 *The Life and Adventures of*

said, fetch as good a Price as the white ones.

IV. *The Gum Trade.* This Trade, which is very profitable, was formerly engrossed entirely by the *French* at *Senegal*; but of late the *English* at *Gambo* began to share it with them, and find it very advantageous.

V. *The Bees-Wax Trade.* As there are a great many Bees here, this Trade might be vastly encreas'd: However, there is a prodigious deal sold by the Inhabitants, who find a ready Sale for it; and therefore it is very likely, in Process of Time, they will much more improve it.

These are the chief Articles of Trade, between the *Europeans* and the People of *Africa*; though the *Europeans* frequently barter Toys and Trifles with them for Cattle, Fruits, &c. but as this is common with several other Nations, I have not made it a distinct Article.

Having spoken of their Trade, I shall give a brief Account of their Fruits, &c.

In most Parts of *Guinea*, they have two Harvests in the Year; but the Men seldom concern themselves much with Labour: The Women therefore dig the Ground, plant, sow, &c.

The Soil produces Corn, Rice, Potatoes, Yams, &c. as likewise Tobacco, and *Guinea* Pepper, which the Inhabitants find a ready Sale for. This grows chiefly in those Parts of *Guinea* call'd, *The Grain Coast*. It grows on a Shrub,

JAMES WYATT. 161

a Shrub, in a long slender red Pod, and is found here in great Plenty.

The Palm Tree grows in this Country more than in any other, and is of great Service to the Inhabitants. The Body of this Tree, when it comes to its full Growth, is about three or four Feet in Circumference, and about six or seven Feet in Height. From this Trunk, there are Branches which shoot sometimes fifteen or twenty Feet high. The Leaves are commonly about three or four Feet long, and about two Inches broad, ending in a sharp Point.

From the Nuts which grow on this Tree, they press out an Oil, which is call'd Palm Oil, and is sold by the Apothecaries in *London*; and, the Trunk being tapp'd, there issues a large Quantity of Liquor, which the Inhabitants call Palm Wine, and are extremely fond of it, as it is pretty strong, and very pleasant to drink.

A good Tree commonly yields about fourteen or sixteen Gallons of this Liquor: But, it is said, that the Inhabitants durst not tap any of these Trees without obtaining Leave from their Sovereign; and that they make some Acknowledgement for the Liberty of doing it, when it is granted.

Having spoken briefly of the Produce of the Soil, I shall now proceed to give some Account of their Religion, Marriages, Food, Rarities, &c.

The

162 *The Life and Adventures of*

The Religion of this Country is chiefly Paganism; though there are some *Mahometans*, it is said, near the Sea Coast of *Guinea*. This Religion is attended with sundry very ridiculous Superstitions, a few of which I shall here mention.

Those Inhabitants who live in the Kingdom of *Benin*, acknowledge a supreme, almighty Being, whom they call by the Name of *Orisa*. They own that he made Heaven and Earth, but think it needless to serve him, because, they say, that as he is infinitely Good, he will be sure to do them no Hurt.

But, on the contrary, it is said, they are very careful to pay their Devotions, and offer Sacrifices to evil Spirits (who they imagine to be the Cause of all their Calamities) that they may cease to bring any more Evils upon them.

They likewise offer up a Sacrifice to the Sea, every Year, thinking thereby to appease the Waves, and procure calm and serene Weather.

There is also a considerable Kingdom in *Guinea*, (the People of which are call'd *Fidaians*) where there is a grand Temple, dedicated to a Serpent of a particular Species, whose Bite is not mortal. In this Temple they keep alive one of the largest Serpents they can get of the Kind, and there are Priests and Priestesses to officiate therein. Here they pray for earthly Blessings, and to be preserved from temporal Calamities.

This

JAMES WYATT. 163.

This Temple stands in a Grove, as indeed does most of the Temples of the Heathens. It is very spacious, and adorned with great Variety of Ornaments,

To this grand Temple, it is said, the King of *Fida's* Officers of State, and many others, go a Pilgrimage every Year; and that the King himself sends rich Presents thereto, as well as his People.

There are likewise many smaller Temples in this Country, which are dedicated to this Serpent; and, so great a Veneration have the Inhabitants for all the Serpents of this particular Kind, that if they see any of them attacked by any Animal, or even by Strangers, they will immediately rise, and deliver them from the impending Danger.

Their stupid Veneration for this particular Species of Serpents, seems to have had its Rise from hence, *viz.* that as they observ'd the Bite of other Serpents to be frequently attended with Death, they imagined they were possess'd with evil Spirits; but finding the Bite of these Serpents not to be mortal, they might therefore at first worship it, thinking thereby to prevail with it never to do them any Prejudice.

And this seems the more probable, as the Opinion of *Pythagoras* mightily prevails here, as indeed it does in most Pagan Countries.

But besides the Idols that are kept in their Temples, most of the Negroes have an Idol in their Houses, which they worship on the Day
of

164 *The Life and Adventures of*

of the Week on which they were born ; and, at other Times, when any great Calamity befalls them.

These Idols are not always the same, but every one has them according to their particular Fancy.

When they have offered up their Prayers for Deliverance from any particular Evil, and do not find their Petitions granted, they will presently change their Idol for another ; so that they seldom keep one Idol long, but get a new one on any extraordinary Disappointment.

The Stupidity of these People, in this Respect, is very astonishing, to think they should pray to Stocks and Stones for Deliverance, which they see are the Work of Mens Hands ; and which they might know, were they not blinded by their superstitious Customs, had no Power either to hear them, or grant them what they request : *Having Ears yet hear not, Eyes yet see not, neither speak they through their Throats.*

They have, it is said, an extraordinary Veneration for their Priests ; and use them occasionally for Conjurers and Physicians, as well as Priests.

They generally believe, it is said, that the Souls of good Men exist after Death, but have scarce any Notion of an eternal Punishment in a future State.

Marriages are here made by the Parents, when the Children are very young ; and which they hardly ever dispute, when they are grown up.

JAMES WYATT. 165

up, so that there is no Consent ask'd of the Parties. The Husband provides Cloaths, and every Thing for the Wife, which he takes an Account of, and they are returned him again, should she afterwards be divorced.

When she is conducted to her Husband, there is an Entertainment for their Friends, who are assembled (as I suppose) for Witnesses of the Marriage, as well as to make merry.

For a few Days she is permitted to dress herself, and is exempted from Labour; after which she is set to work, viz. to plant, sow, and dig the Ground; both the Husbandry and Household Work being here done by the Women, as before observ'd.

The Food of the Negroes is not very nice; for they live chiefly on Millet, boil'd to the Consistence of Bread, Potatoes, Yams, Herbs, and sometimes a few stinking Fish, which they let lye on the Ground for that Purpose; for, it is said, they don't like them so well, when they are fresh.

These Negroes will drink a prodigious deal of spiritous Liquors, if they can get them, and hardly ever know when they have enough; especially near the Sea Coast, where they are more used to them, and have greater Opportunities of purchasing them of the *Europeans*.

There are great Princes in *Guinea*, whose Dominions are very extensive. When they go Abroad, or converse with the *European* Factors, it is with a great deal of Pomp. They are
richly

166 *The Life and Adventures of*

richly dress'd, in Gold or Silver-Stuffs, and have a very great Number of Attendants, if the Persons receiv'd in the Hall of Audience are of any Consequence.

In *Guinea* there are no written Laws, yet nevertheless there are particular Punishments appointed for particular Crimes; Murder is punish'd with Death; Theft, by a Fine; but if the Thief has not wherewith to pay it, he becomes a Slave to the injur'd Party; Debtors likewise become Slaves to their Creditors, provided their Debts are considerable.

The People of *Guinea* are said to be much given to Gaming of late, and will sometimes play very high. They formerly understood no Game but Draughts; but now they play with Cards, Dice, &c. which they learn'd of the *Europeans*.

Their principal Diversions are Shooting, Hunting, and Fishing; these they take great Delight in, especially the last, and have all Sorts of Tackle that is necessary for it.

Among the Rarities of *Guinea* is reckon'd the Currant of the *Rio da Volta*. It is so very impetuous, says Mr. Gordon, that the Sea always appears of a whitish Colour for about a Mile near the Place where this River disgorgeth itself, and is said to have a sweetish Taste for almost ten Fathoms deep.

There is found in several of the inland Provinces of *Guinea*, and in some of the adjacent Countries, that remarkable Creature, call'd, *Ourang Outang*. One of these surprizing

JAMES WYATT. 167

zing Creatures was brought to *England* sometime since, and seen in *London* by Multitudes of People. This Creature frequently walks upright, as Men; and so very near is their Resemblance to the human Shape, that many of the *Negroes* take them for real Men, but imagine they are become Demi-Brutes, by their long Continuance in the Woods.

Some of the *Europeans* think they are the genuine Off-Spring of the ancient Satyrs or Pygmies, which are so famous among the Poets, and so often mention'd by *Pliny*: But others reckon them specifically the same with the Apes of *Borneo*, which seems most probable.

The other Beasts that are found in the inland Countries of *Guinea*, are Elephants, Lyons, Tygers, Leopards, Sea-Horses, &c. which are so well known, as not to need any Description.

As most People are desirous of knowing what is curious, especially in the remote Parts of the World, I shall here give an Account of the chief Curiosities of *Africa*.

There are two magnificent Temples, in the City of *Morocco*, one built by *Ali*, and the other by *Adul Mumen*, which are very much admir'd by the Curious.

In the Royal Palace of the *Morocco* Emperors, which is a prodigious large and magnificent Building, there is a stately Mosque, which has a very high Turret; and, on the Top thereof, there are four Apples of solid Gold,

168 *The Life and Adventures of*

Gold, which, it is said, weigh seven Hundred Pounds Weight.

There is likewise a Tower, in the same Palace, which is prodigiously high; and yet it is so artfully contriv'd, that the Emperor can ascend to the Top thereof on Horseback.

There is a famous Mosque in the City of *Fez*, call'd *Caruven*; which, it is said, is near Half a Mile round. It has thirty Gates, of a prodigious Bigness, and upwards of three Hundred Cisterns to wash in, before they go to Prayers. There are above nine Hundred Lamps in this Mosque; which are generally lighted, and burn every Night.

Not far from the Ruins of *Tangier*, there is a narrow Descent, something resembling that of a Coal-pit. It leads into a very large subterranean Apartment, in which are several Passages into other Apartments, all of which are embellish'd with Marble. It is thought this Place was design'd by the Antients, as a Repository for the Dead, as there has been found several Urns and Statues in it.

There is a River that disgorgeth itself into the main Ocean, between *Bajadore* and *Nun*, that grows commonly dry in the Winter Time, which is the Time other Rivers abound most with Water.

There are two Tombs in the Desarts of *Aracan*; and, their Inscriptions tell us, that the one was a very rich Merchant; the other, a poor Carrier. They both dy'd for want of Water,

JAMES WYATT. 169

Water, for one Cruize of which, the Merchant had given Ten Thousand Ducats.

The sandy Defart, in the Province of *Fago* is of such a surprizing Nature, that when Men have perished in the Sand, in endeavouring to cross it, their Bodies have long afterwards been found Whole, without the least Sign of Corruption, but have become hard, like the Mummies in *Egypt*.

There is in *Nubia*, a very strange and subtle Poison; one Grain of which, it is said, will kill eight or ten Men in about a Quarter of an Hour.

There is in the Mountain of *Gojame*, in *Ethiopia*, a large natural hollow Rock, and opposite to that is another, so situated, that a Word only whispered, it is said, on the Top thereof, is heard at a great Distance; and, that the Voices of several Persons speaking together, seems like the Shout of a prodigious Army.

There is a Fish, in some of the Rivers of *Ethiopia*, call'd a *Torpil*, which if a Person do but touch, it is said, an excessive Cold and Trembling presently seizes him.

In some of the Lakes in *Angola*, are sometimes seen Water-monsters, which the Natives call *Pesiengoni*, but *Europeans* call them *Syrenes*. When they are taken, it is said, they fetch heavy Sighs, and cry with a mournful, yet charming Tone, very musical, and something resembles the Voice of a Woman.

170 *The Life and Adventures of*

The Island of *Madera* is said to prove mortal to all venomous Animals, there not being any such to be found thereon.

These are the chiefest Curiosities, both of Nature and Art; which are found in *Africa*; and which, having mentioned, I proceed to give a farther Account of its Inhabitants.

The Character which most Writers give of the People of *Guinea*, is, that they are great Idolaters, very superstitious, and much given to cheating.

They have one very remarkable Custom among them, in some Parts of *Guinea*; and that is, that every Person is to follow the Employment which his Fore-fathers followed, without regarding whether it may suit with the Capacity or Inclination of the Person or not.

As to the People of *Guinea*, the Men are generally stout, strong, able-bodied Men; they are very Black, have flat Noses, large Lips, great Eyes, woolly Hair, but exceeding good white Teeth.

The Women have flat Noses, large Lips, woolly Hair, and very good Teeth; they are likewise extremely Black, and not so large featured as the Men.

The Musick of the Negroes is not very agreeable to *Europeans*, though the Inhabitants think it is very extraordinary. The chief Musical Instruments they have are Trumpets, Drums, and Harps: But these are not to compare with those Instruments made in *Europe*,

JAMES WYATT. 171

rope, either in Make or Sound ; and are only called so by the *Europeans*, because they something resemble our Drum, Trumpet, and Harp. They have several other musical Instruments, but they are very bad, and their Noise very disagreeable.

The Negroes commonly build their own Houses, and make the Instruments for the Women to do the Husbandry-work with ; they likewise make their Swords, Darts, Launces, &c. Their Houses are built with Wood and Clay, and either thatched with Reeds, or *Palmeto* Branches.

As soon as a Negro of Fortune dies, a terrible Howl is set up by his Relations and Slaves. Those that are nearest related to him, cloath themselves in Rags, and paint their Skins white ; after which, they run crying and howling about, as though they were mad.

After they have done this for several Days, the deceas'd Person's Relations and Neighbours come to the House, and they and the Family howl and make a frightful Noise all together ; for the more they howl, the more it is thought they respect the Person deceas'd.

When the Corps is richly cloathed, it is put into a Coffin ; and they likewise put therein Pieces of Gold, Chrystal, or other Things, according to the Rank of the Person deceas'd.

172 *The Life and Adventures of*

At length the Corps is carried to the Burial-place, and several Men with Fire-Arms go before it. They frequently fire their Guns, and the Relations and Neighbours that follow the Corps, howl dismally as they walk along.

No sooner is the Corps interr'd, and the Company returned Home, but all Signs of Grief are vanished; and they begin to feast and make merry, which they sometimes do for several Days together.

Having given some Account of *Guinea*, and of its Inhabitants, Trade, &c. I shall now proceed, according to Promise, to acquaint the Reader with whatever happened, that was worthy Notice, till I arrived safe in *England*.

I have before observed, that we came to the *English* Factory at *Gambo*, on the Thirty-first of *January*, 1742-3. My Continuance there was but four Days; during which Time, I received several Favours from the *English* Gentlemen that resided there.

The Third of *February* I prepared for my Departure, and accordingly took Leave of all my Friends. Some of the *English* Gentlemen, knowing my unfortunate Circumstances, and that I was going to leave them, made me Presents of some Things which they thought would be serviceable to me.

After returning them a great many Thanks for those, and all the other Favours they had conferred upon me, and I had received their
good

JAMES WYATT. 173

good Wishes for my safe Arrival in *England*, I took my Leave, and went on board the Ship. It was called the *Robert*, and Capt. *Dent* was the Commander, as before observed.

I had not been long on board, before she fell down the River *Gambo*, and proceeded on her Voyage for *England*.

Though we had not an extraordinary quick Passage, yet we met with little bad Weather; and, what is a little uncommon, we were nine Weeks after we left *Gambo*, before we saw a Sail, and that was in the Bay of *Biscay*.

As soon as we saw her, we took her for a *Spanish* Privateer, and accordingly made ready to fight her. When we came near her, we made her bring to. She proved to be a *French* Merchantman, but I did not hear her Name.

From the Bay of *Biscay* we sailed to the *Downs*, without any Thing material happening, where we came to an Anchor the Tenth of *April*, 1743.

While we lay in the *Downs*, the Weather being pretty cold, and I having been a considerable Time in a hot Country, I was taken exceeding ill.

Capt. *Dent* was very kind to me, and let me want for nothing. He ordered the Doctor to take particular Care of me; and, in three or four Days Time, I was pretty well recovered.

The Sixteenth of *April*, we came to our Moorings, near *Cherry-Garden-Stairs*, *Rother-bitb*,

174 *The Life and Adventures of*

hith, being heartily glad I was got to *England*.

We set sail from *Gambo*, the Third of *February* 1742-3, as before observed; and arrived in the River of *Thames*, the Sixteenth of *April* following; so that we were just two Months and thirteen Days in our Passage to *England*.

Soon after we came to our Moorings at *Rotherhithe*, I returned Capt. *Dent* a great many Thanks for all the Favours I had received from him; after which, I took my Leave of him, and went ashore.

The Twenty-ninth of *May* 1741, I entered Trumpeter on board the *Revenge* Privateer, and soon after left *England*, as mentioned in the Beginning of my Life; and I arrived in the River of *Thames*, the Sixteenth of *April* 1743, so that I was gone almost two Years; during which Time, I believe, I underwent as many, and as great Hardships as ever Man did.

This will the more evidently appear, if the Reader does but consider what I must undergo when I was wounded by the *Spaniards* in one of the *Canary* Islands; the Length of Time the Ball remained in my Shoulder; the Manner of its being extracted by a Barber; and, for want of having my Wounds dress'd, when I was a Prisoner in the *Canary* Islands.

All these Things I endured, previous to our unfortunate Escape from *Teneriffe*.

The

JAMES WYATT. 175

The Hardships I endured among the *Moors*, (which were exceeding great, and such as I believe so many Men hardly ever underwent before) being added to the Sufferings before-mentioned, I believe I may venture to affirm, that no one Man ever went through such a Variety of Hardships besides myself.

It is true, it is natural for every one to think his own Case the hardest; and the Pressures and Calamities we feel, are apt to make us complain. But, far be it from me to mention my Sufferings with Murmuring or Discontent; that were to be dissatisfy'd with the Dispensations of the Divine Being, *whose Mercies to all his Creatures, and me in particular, are numberless as the Sand on the Sea Shore!*

No; one Reason of my mentioning my Sufferings so often, is, to magnify the Goodness of the great Creator of the World, in sustaining us in such Times of eminent Danger; when Wants from within, and Fears from without, surrounded us; when Death came arm'd with more than common Terrors; and when the Light of Life was just extinguish'd; *then did the Lord turn the Hearts of our Enemies, and wrought a wonderful Deliverance for us!*

There is yet another Reason for my mentioning, in this Place, the Hardships I underwent; and that is, to shew the Verity of what was inserted in the Proposals for printing my Life, *viz. That it contained such a Variety of surprizing Adventures, that the Life*
of

176 *The Life and Adventures of*

of one Man was scarce capable of more, provided a due Regard was had to Truth.

Whether this is made appear to the Satisfaction of the Reader, I know not; yet, this I will affirm, that whatever I have read has come far short of it, unless it were in *Romances*; which every one knows are wrote only for Amusement.

But to return. When I came ashore, I went to see some particular Friends. They were very much surprized at my coming, because they had heard I was kill'd by the *Spaniards* in attacking a Bark, near the *Canary Islands*.

After I had related to them the Manner of my Deliverance, and they had express'd their Astonishment thereat, they ask'd me, if I wanted for any Thing. I told them, at present, I did not, having had some Money given me at the Factories in *Guinea*; which, I believed, was sufficient to support me till I got into Business.

One Gentleman in particular (whose Kindness I shall always remember) assured me, if a Thousand Pounds would do me any particular Service, he would lend it me with a great deal of Pleasure. I returned him many Thanks for his kind Offer, and told him, at present I had no great Occasion for Money, especially so considerable a Sum as that; but, when I wanted, I would make my Application to him.

I was not long before I got into Business, and so never troubled this Gentleman; but I am
certain,

JAMES WYATT. 177

certain, had I wanted it, he would very readily have let me had it.

After I had been some Time in Business, and sav'd a pretty deal of Money, I purchas'd an Electrical Machine, and some other Apparatus, in order to exhibit several philosophical Experiments.

As this was at the Time they were not very common in *London*, I got Money very fast; and, in less than three Months, sav'd near Twenty Pounds, besides bearing my Expences.

Finding my Business began to abate, and that several other Persons had purchas'd some of these Electrical Machines, I went into the Country, where I remain'd some Time.

At some Towns I scarce took Money enough to bear my Expences, the People not knowing the Meaning of the Word *Electricity*; nor would they give the Price I usually got in *London*; for, talking of a Shilling each Person, frighten'd them out of their Wits.

In some Towns in *Kent*, I had very good Business, and sav'd a pretty deal of Money; but, even here, I was forc'd to lower the Price.

In these Towns the People knew what it meant, and that the Thing was very curious and surprizing. They came, when the Price was not so high, in great Numbers, and sometimes many Miles, to be electrified.

I continued in the County of *Kent* about two Months, in which Time I clear'd about
Twelve

178 *The Life and Adventures of*

Twelve Pounds; after which, I return'd to *London* again, thinking if I took low Prices I should have good Business.

For some Time I had very good Success, so that I got a pretty deal of Money, with which I bought several Things that I wanted; but my Business falling off after a Time, I was thinking of going into the Country again.

At length I was persuaded, by some Captains of my Acquaintance, to go to *Jamaica*; and take the Electrical Machine, and other Apparatus, along with me; assuring me, that I should get a very considerable Sum with them there, in a small Time, as there had never been any Thing of the Kind at that Place.

They told me, that *Jamaica* was a Place where there were a great many People of Fortune; that there were several Merchants, Captains of Ships, and other curious Gentlemen, who would not fail to give me Encouragement; that there was no Scarcity of Money; and, tho' Provisions were indeed dear, yet that would but little affect me.

On my seeming willing to go, a Gentleman, who was my particular Friend, gave me a Letter to Capt. *Hay*, Commander of a *West-India* Ship, call'd the *Fox*, who was shortly going to *Jamaica*, and assur'd me I should be well us'd on his Account.

Upon this, I went to Capt. *Hay*, who entertain'd me exceeding kindly; and, on hearing what I came about, assur'd me I would
meet

JAMES WYATT. 179

meet with very great Encouragement at *Jamaica*.

After staying a small Time with this Gentleman, I took my Leave of him, assuring him I would go on board, as soon as the Ship was ready to sail.

From this Time I began to make Preparation for my Voyage to *Jamaica*. Accordingly I went and bought four Globes, some Cloaths, Linnen, Boxes, and whatever else I thought I should want.

I bought a pretty many Cloaths, more indeed than I at present wanted, because I did not know how long I might stay out of *England*, and Cloaths are very dear Abroad.

While the Ship was taking in her Lading, I was not idle, but continually trying Experiments, in order to improve my Mind, and give the greater Satisfaction to those Gentlemen and Ladies that should hereafter honour me with their Company.

One Day, while I was getting my Machine in Order, a Gentleman, who was my particular Friend, came to see me. He desir'd I would let him see my Electrical Machine, and what other Apparatus I had, which I readily did. He was extreamly pleas'd with the Experiments I afterwards show'd him, and made me a handsome Present for my Trouble.

Before he went away, he ask'd me if I would make an Optical Machine for his Son, saying it would be a pretty Amusement for him,

180 *The Life and Adventures of*

him, and might tend to the Improvement of his Mind, as he was a Youth of a very promising Genius. I told him, I would do that, or any Thing else that he desir'd, provided it was in my Power; upon which he told me, he should take it as a particular Favour, and that he would fully satisfy me for my Trouble and Charge.

Accordingly I went to work, and in a few Days compleated the Machine to his Satisfaction; for which he made me a handsome Present, and entertain'd me very kindly.

After I had continu'd with him some Time, I took my Leave of him, and went to see some more of my Friends, being willing to see as many of them as I could, before I left *England*. I acquainted them with my Resolution of going to *Jamaica*; upon which they told me, that they were heartily sorry I was going to Sea again; but, said they, if you are determin'd to go, I wish you good Success when you are there, and safe back again to *England*.

A Day or two before the Ship was ready to sail, I had Notice to get every Thing ready: Accordingly I pack'd up my Electrical Machine, Globes, Cloaths, &c. and sent them on board.

At length the Time of the Ship's sailing being near at Hand, I settled my Affairs, took my Leave of my Friends, and went on board the Ship before-mention'd the Twenty-fifth of *April* 1747.

After

JAMES WYATT. 181

After having experienced various Vicissitudes of Fortune, I am once more going into a strange Land: For, though *there is nothing new under the Sun*; yet, *the Eye is never satisfy'd with seeing*. However, it is not meerly Curiosity that makes me leave my native Country, having now a very good Prospect of Success, and sure of being no Loser, provided we escape our Enemies, and the Perils of the Sea.

Thus, kind Reader, have I given you a genuine Account of my Life and Adventures, and hope you will not think the Time ill spent in perusing it. If any Thing very extraordinary should happen to me, in my future Travels, I shall communicate it to the Publick, provided I live to return to *England*.

FINIS.

Finished May 31. 1827 E. W.



IN MAY 1935

1. The first of these is the fact that the
2. second is the fact that the
3. third is the fact that the
4. fourth is the fact that the
5. fifth is the fact that the
6. sixth is the fact that the
7. seventh is the fact that the
8. eighth is the fact that the
9. ninth is the fact that the
10. tenth is the fact that the



To the Bookbinder.

PLEASE to place the Cuts to this
Work as follows :

The *Author's Head*, before the
Title.

Mr. *Parry*, shooting at the *Au-*
thor, &c. before *Pag. 13*.

Their returning from the plunder-
ing of *Point Niger*, &c. opposite
Pag. 35.

The *Author*, set against a Rock
to be shot by the *Spaniards*, &c.
facing *Pag. 48*.

To the Bookbinder.

PLEASE to place the Cuts to this
Work as follows:

The Author's Head, before the
Title.

Mr. Perry, shooting at the An-
chor, &c. before pag. 13.

Three returning from the plunder-
ing of Point Noy, &c. opposite
pag. 35.

The Author, for against a Rock
to be met by the Spaniards, &c.
before pag. 48.

